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INTERESTING ANECDOTES
OF
HENRY IV. OF FRANCE.

CONTAINING
SUBLIME TRAITS
AND
LIVELY SALLIES OF WIT
OF THAT
MONARCH;

DIGESTED INTO CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER,

[And forming a Complete Picture of the

L I F E

OF THAT

AMIABLE AND ILLUSTRIOUS HERO.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

—DUBLIN:—

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THAT nation, so distinguished for its affection to its Kings, the French, whom an unheard-of act of wickedness deprived of the best and greatest of their Sovereigns, deeply felt, at his death, the full extent of their misfortune. From that cruel period, the immortal name of Henry IV. that name which recalls to mind so much valour and so many virtues, hath been repeated by the people with equal respect and tenderness.

*A man of genius, * a century after, made choice of Henry for the hero of the first epic poem that France could boast of. He paints to us, with all the force and elegance of his enchanting style, the intrepid heroisms of Henry, his clemency, his humanity, and that tender love for his people, in which he placed his most exalted pleasures. The Henriade won every heart. The consecrated name of the hero resounded far and wide; fanaticism appeared more hateful, the affection of the French nation for that Monarch became more ardent and more pure, and the glory of that master-piece will, doubtless, be as durable, as our veneration for the hero who is the subject of it.*

* Voltaire.

Each

Each succeeding year hath seen some new monument arise to the fame of Henry IV. History, anecdotes, panegyrics, dramatic pieces, engraving, sculpture, every species of literature, and all the arts, have disputed which should evince the most love and admiration for this pattern of Kings.

The favour shewn by the Public to every thing which delineates that great Prince, gave rise to a multiplicity of publications: it was not perceived that one repeated what another had said before; to speak of Henry was sufficient to merit the suffrage of the reader.

The

The same national enthusiasm produced the Picture which is here presented to the Public. It is the soul, it is the genius, it is the mind of the great Henry. Of what signification is it, that one is already acquainted with the greater part of those features which are beheld with such adoration? They are not, therefore, the less dear to us; their re-union but only makes them the more interesting.

The Order of Time hath been preserved as much as possible in this collection. It is the substance of the history of that Prince; it is himself who is depicted throughout; it is the chain of the important acts of a life
that

that is immortal, disencumbered from the details, the connections, and the tediousness of narration.

It is presumed, that Henry. IV. will be better known in the portrait given by this work, than in the most voluminous and elaborate history: the man, the hero, the King, the father of his people, will appear in every page; and, perhaps, this method of exhibiting him hath the merit of departing little from the model left us by Plutarch, for writing the lives of illustrious men, and rendering them present to our view.

Some manuscripts communicated to the faithful editor of this collection, have enabled
him

him to come at certain facts that were hitherto unknown, or, at least, but little known. It will, perhaps, be owing to this advantage, that he will obtain sufficient thanks from the Public, to cause him to felicitate himself on having undertaken this work.

ANEC-

ANECDOTES

OF

HENRY IV. &c.

WHEN Jane d'Albret, mother of Henry IV. was, with child of that prince, Henry d'Albret, his grandfather, made his daughter promise that, while she was in labour, she would sing him a song, to prevent, said he, your bringing forth a weeping and ill-tempered infant. The Princess promised that she would, and had so much courage, that, notwithstanding the cruel pains she suffered, she kept her word with him, and sang him a song

B

in

in his own language of Bearn, as soon as she heard him enter her chamber. The child came into the world without weeping or crying. His grandfather took him up in his arms, rubbed his little lips with a clove of garlick, and made him suck a drop of wine out of a golden cup; imagining that, by these means, he should render his constitution more masculine and vigorous. (*Prefixe.*)

He said, with a transport of joy, to those who came to compliment him upon this happy event; *See now, my ewe has been delivered of a lion.* By this he meant to answer a frigid piece of raillery which the Spaniards had aimed against him. They had said, when Queen Margaret, his consort, was delivered of Jane d'Albret, mother of young Henry; *A miracle! the cow is brought to bed of a sheep;* alluding to the arms of Bearn, which are
two

two cows. Henry d'Albret said, moreover, from a secret presage, that that child was born to revenge the wrongs which Spain had done his family. (*Prefixe.*)

Henry was brought up at the castle of Corasse in Bearn, situated amidst rocks and mountains. Henry d'Albret would have the young prince cloathed and fed like the other children of the country, and even accustomed to run up the rocks. They fed him mostly with brown bread, with beef, with garlick, and cheese; and very often he was made to walk bare-footed and bare-headed. He was called, while in the cradle, *Prince of Viane*; soon after they gave him the title of *Duke of Beaumont*, and, next, that of *Prince of Navarre*. The Queen of Navarre, his mother, took exceeding great care of his education, and appointed La Gaucherie his

preceptor, a man of learning, and a zealous Calvinist. Having been presented, when a child, to Henry II. that monarch said to him; *Will you be my son?* The little Prince answered in the Bearnois dialect, *There is my father*, pointing to the King of Navarre. *Well then, will you be my son-in-law?*—*Yes surely*, replied the child. His marriage with the Princess Margaret of Valois was from that moment determined on. (*Chronol. Noven. de Cayet.*)

In 1569, the Admiral Coligny had just lost the battle of Jarnac, when he demanded the Prince of Bearn, (for so young Henry was at that time stiled) in order to put him at the head of the Protestants. Coligny repaired his loss in a very little time; he had raised fresh troops, with which, near Moncontour, he again offered battle to the army of the Catholics, who were a second time victorious, but failed

to

to profit of their advantages, either from the incapacity of their Generals, or from being prevented by the fine retreat made by the Admiral de Coligny. The Prince of Bearn, who was then in his sixteenth year, was present at this battle in the army of the Huguenots; but the Admiral, warned by the recent death of the Prince of Condé, killed at the battle of Jarnac, would not suffer young Henry to expose his person: he placed him, along with the young Prince of Condé, under the care of Ludovic, Count of Nassau, gave them an escort of four thousand cavalry, and posted them upon a hill, whence they could distinguish what was passing. Henry glowed with ardour to signalize himself in the battle; but they would not give him his liberty; he remained a mere spectator of that action, and the Huguenots, perhaps, would not have lost the day, had his advice been followed. For the van-

guard of the Duke of Anjou having given way, the young Prince wished to fall on the main body of the army, with the four thousand horse which the Admiral had posted in reserve; but Ludovic having prevented him, he exclaimed, *We lose the battle, by giving the enemy time to rally;* and this actually came to pass. The Huguenot Generals agreed, after the action, that, had they been supported by the squadrons with the Prince of Navarre, the Catholic army would have been defeated. A high opinion was thenceforth entertained of the capacity of young Henry. (*Pérefixe, & Histoire d'Henri IV. Par M. de Bury.*)

The Admiral continued the war in different parts of France. He carried his boldness even so far as to cross the kingdom, in order to meet the German troops, which he joined, after having beaten, near
Arnay.

Arnay-le-Duc, the Marechal de Cossé, who was come with a great army to prevent the junction. It was on this occasion that the young Prince of Navarre made his first essay in arms, according to the historian Matthieu, who relates that he heard Henry say, "Forty miles, or a little more, were the farthest I could retreat, and I was at the mercy of the country people. In this situation, I ran the risk of being taken prisoner or slain; for I had no cannon, and the King's party had. About ten paces from me, a cavalier was killed by a shot from a culverin; but I recommended to God the success of that day's battle, and he rendered it favourable and fortunate." Some time previous to this action, La Mothe-Fenelon, addressing the young Prince of Navarre, affected to appear surprised that he, who was yet so young, should take part in a war which,

properly speaking, regarded only the interests of the Prince of Condé, his uncle, and the Huguenots who were making war upon the King : " The reason is," replied the Prince, " that, as it is evident " that, under the pretext of rebellion, " which is falsely imputed to the Prince, " my uncle, and to the Huguenots, our " enemies intend nothing less than to ex- " terminate the whole royal family of " Bourbon, we have a mind to die all to- " gether, to avoid the expence of going " into mourning, which otherwise we " should have to wear for one another." " (*Tabl. Historiques des Rois de France.*)

The same Fenelon, another time addressing the King of Navarre, was lamenting the miseries which the flame of this war, said he, is about to occasion in the kingdom. *Good ! 'tis a fire that may be extinguished with a bucket of water.* How so ? demanded

demanded Fenelon. *By making, said the King, the Cardinal of Lorraine, the real and principal firebrand of France, drink up this bucket of water, till he burst. (Id)*

In 1576, the city of Eause, in Armagnac, stirred up by some seditious persons, had refused to admit the garrison which the King of Navarre was sending thither. He reached the gates of the city, before the inhabitants could have had notice of his march, and entered it without opposition, at the head of fifteen or sixteen who were nearer to him than the rest of his troops. The mutineers, perceiving this, cried out that the portcullis should immediately be dropped; the thing was done, and separated this handful of soldiers from the troops which remained without. The rebels rang the alarm; a body of fifty soldiers hastened down, some of whom cried: "Fire at that scarlet jacket, and at those

“white plumes, for ’tis the King of Navarre.” Upon this, that monarch said; *My friends, my companions, it is here we must shew our courage and resolution; for on that depends our safety. Let each then follow me, and do as I do; let every pistol-shot do execution.* The rebels being dispersed, and the city filling with Henry’s soldiers, who had forced the gates, the inhabitants would have been all put to the edge of the sword, had not the principal men amongst them, with the Consuls at their head, come and thrown themselves at the feet of the King of Navarre, who felt compassion for them, and contented himself with ordering four of those to be hanged, who had fired at the white plumes. (*Memoires de Sully.*)

This Prince, who exposed his person, like the meanest soldier, exhibited before Nerac, in 1577, an instance of excessive intrepidity;

intrepidity ; a body of cavalry was detached to surprize him, and he repulsed them almost alone. The intreaties of his officers could not prevail on him to take more care of his life ; and his example animated them in their turn, to such a degree, that twelve or fifteen of them advanced, that same day, to fire their pistols in the very teeth of the Catholics. Henry, who observed it, said to Bethune ; “ Go to your cousin, the Baron de Rosny ; he is as stupid as a drone ; bring him back, and the rest along with him ; for the enemy seeing us retire, will undoubtedly charge him so furiously, that they will all be taken prisoners, or killed.” Rosny obeyed the order ; and the King, who perceived that his horse was wounded in the shoulder, reproached him for his temerity, with an air of anger that was perfectly kind and obliging (*Memoires de Sully.*)

Catherine

Catherine of Medicis, mother of Henry III. and who bore the chief sway in the government of the kingdom, had a strong inclination to prevail on the King of Navarre to abandon the Huguenots, and return to the Court of France; but, not succeeding in this attempt, she held a secret correspondence with such cities as he was master of. In 1578, the two Courts being at Auch, one day, when a ball was given, information was conveyed to the King of Navarre, that the Governor of Réole, who was an elderly gentleman, instigated by a passion for one of the maids of honour attending the Queen-mother, had betrayed his trust, and delivered up the place to the Catholics. Henry, resolved not to defer the honour of vengeance, gave secret notice to Rosny, and three or four officers, to quit the ball-room, and meet him in the fields, with arms concealed under their cloaths. The
King

King waited for them with a small body of troops. They marched for the remainder of that night, and reached Fleurance at the very moment when the gates were opened. They took possession of the town without the slightest opposition. The Queen-mother, who would have sworn that the King of Navarre had lain at Auch, the next morning received with astonishment the news of this exploit. But she thought it best to laugh it off: "I see very well," said she, "that this is "in revenge for Réole. The King of "Navarre hath had a mind to give cabbage for cabbage, but mine is the better headed." (*Memoires de Sully.*)

The Queen-mother, ever desirous of detaching the King of Navarre and the Prince of Condé from the Huguenots, proposed a conference. It was held at Nerac about the latter end of February,

1579.

1579. One day, during a conversation which she had with the King of Navarre, she asked him if all the trouble which she had taken was to prove fruitless, when she wished for nothing but repose. "Madam," replied the King, "I am not to blame; it is not I that hinder you from lying in your bed; it is you that will not suffer me to have any rest in mine. The trouble which you take is agreeable and nourishing to you; repose is the greatest enemy of your life." (*Pe-
refixe.*)

On another occasion, that Princess was caressing him exceedingly, and even went so far as to tickle him in the sides. Henry, suspecting that the Queen's design was to try whether he had a coat of mail under his cloaths, unbuttoned his doublet, and shewing her his breast, *See, Madam*, said he, *I serve nobody under cover.*

ver. When she conjured him not to pay court any longer to the magistrates of Rochelle, telling him that it was doing an injury to his grandeur, to submit thus to a populace by whom he might be often shaken off: *I do there,* replied Henry, *what I please, because I please to do nothing there but what I ought.* (Le Grain, *Décade de Henri le Grand.*)

Catherine continued her artifices to obtain interviews with the King of Navarre. This Prince, notwithstanding his weakness for the sex, had, nevertheless, sufficient force to resist all the allurements held out to him by the Queen-mother. One day that Princess, accompanied by the most beautiful women of her Court, asked Henry what was his desire? The King answered, looking round upon the swarm of beauties that encompassed him; *There is nothing here, Madam, that I desire; wishing*

wishing to make her understand that her cunning had not succeeded. (*Prefixe.*)

Some days after, that Princess, accompanied by the same ladies, was pressing Henry to make some overture. *Madam*, said he, *there is here no overture for me.* (*Histoire de France de Matthieu.*)

The conferences not having effected the desired pacification, Henry took up arms again, and laid siege to Cahors, a town exceedingly well fortified. The Governor of the place had a strong garrison under his command, and took every precaution that a man would take, who expected every moment to be attacked. This appeared from a billet found in his casket, upon which were these words in his handwriting; *A fig for the Huguenots.* Whatever representations were made to the King of Navarre with respect to this undertaking,

ing, the only answer he gave was : *No-thing will be impossible for me, with men as brave as those who are my counsellors.* This Prince was then at the head of a handful of soldiers, who displayed prodigies of valour, conducted by a hero, who himself fought like a private soldier. Every blow seemed to be aimed at him ; he broke two partisans, and his other weapons were all bent. These encounters occupied five whole days and nights. The besieged were in expectation of immediate succours, and only fought to protract the siege till the arrival of those succours. Intelligence soon came that they were near at hand. In this emergency, the officers, exhausted with fatigue, assembled round the King of Navarre, and earnestly conjured him to provide a retreat, before their enemies had forced their way into the city. But that brave Monarch, whom nothing could deject, or intimidate, surmounting the an-
guish

guish which he felt from his wounds, turned to the officers with a smiling countenance, and, with an air of confidence that would have animated the most feeble and dispirited, contented himself with making this reply : “ It is decreed above
“ what shall become of me on this occasion.
“ Remember that my retreat from this
“ town, without having first secured it for
“ our party, shall be the retreat of my
“ soul out of my body : my honour is too
“ far engaged to permit me to act otherwise.
“ Talk no more to me, then, but
“ of fighting, of victory or death.” Fortune seconded the courage of Henry. The town was taken and pillaged ; but the soldiers were forbidden, under pain of death, to offer violence to any person.
(*Memoires de Sally.*)

After some other expeditions, Henry made peace with the Court, and passed the
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the three following years in tranquillity. He improved himself by reading the best authors. One of the books in which he took most pleasure, was Plutarch's *Lives of Illustrious Men*. He often said, that he lay under great obligations to that book; having drawn from it excellent maxims for his own private conduct, and for the government of a kingdom. (*Histoire de Henri IV. par M. de Bury.*)

This Prince, at a distance from the Court, and desirous of watching its motions, cast his eyes upon the Baron de Rosny,* whom he charged with the necessary instructions. When that Lord came to take leave of his Master, Henry, after embracing him several times, said; “My friend, remember that the principal

* Afterwards Duke of Sully.

“ingredient of a noble courage and of
 “high worth, is to keep your word invio-
 “lably: I will never be untrue to that
 “which I have given you.” (*Memoires*
de Sully.)

Catherine of Medicis, who considered
 her authority as founded upon the dissen-
 tions between the Catholics and the Hu-
 guenots, soon obliged the King of Na-
 varre to take up arms again. He marched,
 in 1587, against the Duke of Joyeuse,
 the General of the Catholic army. When
 he came in sight of the latter; “Look,
 “my friends,” said he to his soldiers,
 “there is a new-married man, who hath
 “got his wife’s portion still untouched in
 “his coffers; it is your business to look
 “there for it.” (*Memoires de Sully.*)

The two armies were ready to engage.
 Before the action commenced, the King
 of

of Navarre, turning to the Princes of Condé and Soissons, said, with that confidence which is a presage of victory; *Remember that you are of the blood of the Bourbons; and, as God is alive, I will let you see that I am your eldest brother.* "And we," replied the Princes, "will shew you that you have gallant "younger brothers." (*Dictionnaire des Portraits Historiques, & Anecdotes des Hommes Illustres.*)

Henry observing, in the heat of the action, that some of his troops were placing themselves before him, with intent to defend his person, cried out to them; *Get aside, I beseech ye; don't obscure me; I wish to be seen.* In fact, he pierced through the foremost ranks of the Catholics; made several prisoners with his own hands, and even collared the brave Casteau-Regnard, Cornet of the Gendarmes,

armes, crying out to him in a tone peculiar to himself: *Yield, Philistine.* (Dictionnaire cité.)

The runaways having halted, some person amongst them imagined that the Marechal de Matignon, who commanded another Catholic army, was in sight, and broached this conjecture as a truth incontrovertible: *Come on, my friends,* cried Henry with an unusual air of gaiety, *you shall see what you have never yet seen, two battles in one day.* (Prefixe.)

The King of Navarre gained the victory, and sat down to supper in an apartment over a hall where was deposited the body of the Duke of Joyeuse, (the General of the Catholics) who had been killed in the action. The King's attendants presented him with the jewels, and other magnificent baubles, which had belonged
to

to the voluptuous General; but he disdained to make use of them. "It is fit only," said he, "for comedians, to be vain of the costly habits which they wear. The true ornament of a General is courage and presence of mind in a battle, and clemency after a victory." (*Le Grain, Décade d'Henri le Grand.*)

A short time after this victory, the King of Navarre being at Bearn, heard of the death of Henry de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, which happened the 5th of March, 1588. Although, according to Perefixe, there had existed a secret jealousy between them, Henry was so sensible of the loss, that, being shut up in his closet with the Duke of Soissons, he was heard to utter loud lamentations, and to say, that he had lost his right arm. He wrote, upon this subject, to Corisandre d'Andoin) Countess de Grammont, the following letter,

ter, which one cannot read without being interested : “ To complete my sum of
“ troubles, one of the bitterest misfor-
“ tunes that I had to dread, hath hap-
“ pened to me ; that is, the sudden death
“ of M. the Prince. I lament him, for
“ what he ought to have been to me, not
“ for what he really was. I am now the
“ sole object at which those traitors of the
“ Mafs aim their villainy. The perfidious
“ wretches have poisoned him : God,
“ however, will remain master, and I, by
“ his grace, the minister of his vengeance.
“ This poor Prince, having, with no great
“ inclination, run at the ring on Thurs-
“ day, went to supper in good health ;
“ at midnight he was seized with a vomit-
“ ing, which continued till the morning.
“ All Friday he remained in bed ; in the
“ evening he supped ; and, having had
“ a sound sleep, rose on Saturday morn-
“ ing, dined, and then played chess ; he
“ rose

“ rose from his chair, walked about the
“ room; conversing with one person or
“ other; all of a sudden he said: “ *Reach*
“ *me my chair, I feel an extreme weakness.*
“ He was no sooner seated, than he lost
“ his speech, and immediately after ex-
“ pired. The symptoms of poison were
“ soon visible; it is incredible what asto-
“ nishment this affair hath given rise to in
“ that part of the country. I depart at
“ break of day, in order to go thither,
“ and provide with all diligence for what-
“ ever may be necessary. I see myself in
“ a fair way of having a great deal of
“ vexation; pray to God devoutly for
“ me; should I escape all mischief, I must
“ needs believe that it was owing to his
“ guardian care, whom, perhaps, I am
“ likely to be with sooner than I am
“ aware. I remain your faithful slave.
“ Good night, my soul; I kiss your hands
“ a million of times.”

March, 1588.

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In

In 1589, Henry III. reduced by the insolence and the enterprizes of the League, to throw himself into the arms of the Calvinists, was excommunicated by the Holy See. As that weak Prince seemed alarmed at this bold conduct of the Court of Rome, the King of Navarre said to him with his usual frankness, that he had an excellent remedy: "It is," added he pleasantly, "to conquer as soon
"as we can; for, if this comes to pass,
"you will have your absolution absolutely; but, if we are beaten, we shall
"be excommunicated, aggravated, and
"re-aggravated." (*Journal de Ligue.*)

Henry III. was the first to propose to the King of Navarre their re-union against their common enemies. The latter Prince, a stranger to all distrust, signed, at Clessis-les-Tours, the treaty that was proposed to him, and set out on his way to join

join the King of France. When he had reached the banks of the river Cher, in a place which was only two miles from Clessis-les-Tours, he halted for a moment. He wished, before he passed the river, to learn the sentiments of the gentlemen who accompanied him; and, after conversing with them for some time: *Come on,* cried he, *I have taken my resolution, there is no farther time for thinking,* and immediately crossed over to the opposite side of the river. (*Memoires de Sully, and Histoire de Henri IV.*)

Henry III. informed of the arrival of the King of Navarre, went out of the city to meet him, and the joy occasioned by a union so desirable had attracted such a vast concourse of people, that the two Kings were, for almost a quarter of an hour, at the distance of fifty paces from each other without being able to approach further. The King of Navarre threw

himself at the feet of the French Monarch, who immediately raised him up, and embraced him with much affection. These marks of kindness were repeated three or four times afterwards, with extreme animation both on the one side and the other. They conversed for a considerable time, and displayed an air of gaiety, which manifested their mutual satisfaction at this meeting. The King of France called the Monarch of Navarre his "Dear Brother," and the latter called the King of France his "Lord." *Courage, my Lord*, said he of Navarre laughing, *two Henries are worth more than one Carolus*. The Duke of Mayenne, General of the League, was named *Charles*; and it is well known that the gold coin current in those days, was called a *Henry*, as we say at present a *Louis*. (*Histoire d'Henri IV*).

The King of Navarre shewed his joy at this interview by the following letter, which

which he wrote to Duplessis Mornay:
“ M. Duplessis, the ice is broken, not
“ without a multitude of warnings, that if
“ I went, I was a dead man. As I crof-
“ sed the water, I recommended myself
“ to God, who, in his goodness, hath
“ not only preserved me, but made ap-
“ pear in the King’s countenance an ex-
“ cessive degree of joy, and excited the
“ people to hail us with unparalleled ac-
“ clamations; they cried, *Long live the*
“ *Kings*. There happened, at the same
“ time, a thousand other remarkable par-
“ ticulars.” (*Histoire d’Henri IV.*)

The King of France, Henry III. hav-
ing been assassinated in 1589, at the siege
of Paris, which he had undertaken in
concert with the Calvinists, Anglure de
Givry, a man equally distinguished for
prudence and virtue, perceiving that se-
veral officers of high rank in the army,
were preparing to abandon the new King,

Henry IV. retained them in their duty, by saying publicly, in presence of that Monarch; "I have just seen the flower
" of your brave nobility, who reserve
" their lamentation for the death of the
" late King, till vengeance shall have
" been taken for it, and expect with im-
" patience the absolute commands of the
" living one. You are King of the brave,
" and will never be deserted but by cow-
" ards." (*D'Aubigné.*)

The new King of France sent immediately for the Marechal de Biron, with whose military talents he was well acquainted, and said, as he embraced him;
" This moment must you put your right
" hand to my crown; neither my temper,
" nor your's, will admit that I should en-
" deavour to animate you by words. I
" beseech you (considering what affairs we
" have on hands) go take the oaths of the
" Swiss, in the manner in which you know
" it should be done; then come and serve
" me

“ me as a father and a friend.” The Marechal replied, “ Sir, it is at this crisis
“ that you will know who are men of
“ worth ; as to the rest, we will talk of
“ it when we have leisure ; I go, not to
“ attempt, but to accomplish what you
“ desire.” (*Histoire d' Henri IV.*

The negotiations of the Marechal had the wished-for success, and the Swiss began their march to join forces with Henry IV. That Prince received them with the affability which was natural to him, and addressed the officers in these terms, so highly honourable for them : “ I am indebted to you for my kingdom, and for
“ my own particular safety, and shall never forget the important service which
“ you have this day rendered to me.”

In 1589, Henry IV. who had only five or six thousand men, was attacked at Arques, a village at a short distance from

Dieppe, by the Duke of Mayenne, who had about thirty thousand. The King, suspecting that the Leaguers would, during the action, direct their principal exertions against his artillery, posted there the Swiss regiment of Glaris, upon which he had great dependence, and their Colonel Galaty, upon whom he depended still more. What he had foreseen, having come to pass, he flew, as was his custom, to where the danger seemed greatest. *Gossip*, said he to Galaty, as he came up to him, *I am come to perish or obtain glory with you.* This declaration had the success which it deserved; it decided the day; the Leaguers were repulsed on every side, and at length completely beaten. (*Le Grain, Décade d'Henri le Grand.*)

A few months after this battle at Arques, they brought to the King a prisoner of distinction. Henry advanced to meet him, and embraced him smiling; the other,

other, who was looking about for the army, expressed to the King his surprize at seeing so few soldiers attending him. *You don't see them all,* said that Prince with the same gaiety, *for you forgot to reckon God and the just rights which are on my side.*

It was at the conclusion of this battle, that he wrote to the brave Crillon this celebrated letter: "Go hang thyself, brave Crillon; we have fought at Arques, and thou wast not there." He said likewise, previous to the day of that battle, "That he was a King without a kingdom, a husband without a wife, and a warrior without money." (*Journal de l'Etoile.*)

The army of the Royalists and that of the Leaguers were ready to come to action in the plains of Ivry, in 1590. The evening before the battle, Colonel Thifche, who had the command of the Germans that followed the standard of Henry IV.

found himself obliged, by a meeting amongst his soldiers, to demand the money that was due to them, threatening, at the same time, to take no part in the action, if their pay was not delivered to them. The King answered peevishly; "How, Colonel! is this acting like a man of honour, to ask for money, when you should take orders for the battle?" Thische retired in great confusion, without making any reply. The next morning, when Henry had ranged his troops in order of battle, he recollected what had passed the evening before, and ran to make due reparation for it. "Colonel," said he publicly to Thische, "now is the opportunity. It may happen that I shall never return from this field. It is not just that I should sully the honour of so brave a gentleman as you are. I here declare, then, that I acknowledge you for a man of worth, and one incapable of a dastardly action."

At

At the same time he embraced the German officer very cordially, who replied with transport; "Ah, Sire! in restoring
"to me my honour you take away my
"life; I were unworthy if I did not sacrifice it this day in your service. Had I
"a thousand lives, I would lay them
"down with pleasure at your feet." In fact, he exposed himself so boldly to every danger, that he fell dead, pierced with innumerable wounds. (*Prefixe.*)

Immediately before the action, Henry ran through all the ranks of his army. He shewed the soldiers his helmet adorned with a white plume, and said to them with that ardour which communicates itself to others; "My children, should the Cornets fail you, behold the sign by which
"you may rally; you will find it always
"in the road to victory and honour."
(*Dictionnaire des Portraits Historiques, & Anecdotes des Hommes Illustres.*)

Upon

Upon another occasion, he said simply to his soldiers; *I am your King, you are Frenchmen, behold the enemy.* His vanguard having given way at first, and some preparing for flight, *Turn your faces,* said he, *and if you will not fight, at least see me perish.* (Id.)

On the day of the battle of Ivry, they lost sight of the King for some time, in the throng, where he was found with only twelve or thirteen gentlemen in the midst of the enemy's squadrons. He killed, with his own hand, the Squire of Count Egmont. *We must play off our pistols,* cried he to his own troops, *the more enemies, the more glory.* (Matthieu.)

So much valour had compelled victory to declare herself in favour of this Prince, who was desirous of sparing the blood of his rebellious subjects; he cried, during the

the route, "*Save the French, and down
" with the foreigners."*

The only fault with which he could be reproached on that day, was his having too much exposed his person. When the battle was over, the Marechal de Biron said to him; "Sire, you have this day
" done the duty of the Marechal de Bi-
" ron, and the Marechal de Biron hath
" done what the King should have done."
(*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

On the evening of that memorable day, while the King was supping at the Castle of Rosny, he was told that the Marechal d'Aumont, one of his bravest officers, was come to give him an account of something. The good Prince rose immediately, went to meet the Marechal, and made him sit down to table, addressing him in these obliging expressions; *It is perfectly reasonable, that you should make*
one

one at the feast, since you have served me so well at my wedding. (Perefixe.)

Francis de Pas, one of the best officers in the army of Henry IV. was killed at this battle of Ivry, fighting heroically under the eyes of his Sovereign. That Prince, affected by what he had witnessed, and from having been long acquainted with that warlike family, exclaimed, *Ventre-saint-gris,** but I am sorry for it; are there any more of them? Answer was made him, that the widow was pregnant. *Well,* replied the King, *I give to the babe in the womb the same pension which this officer enjoyed.* (Memoires de Feugieres.)

The city of Chartres had embraced the party of the League; Henry IV. be-

* For the meaning of this exclamation see the last Anecdote of vol. ii.

sieged it in 1591; but two assaults, made with loss, had disgusted the King with the enterprize, who, being urged by the Chancellor to make a third attempt, replied with an angry air, *Go do it yourself, then; I am not used to sell the blood of my Nobility so dear.*

Some days after, the besieged capitulated; and when he was on the point of making his public entry into the town, he was stopped by a deputation of the inhabitants. The Magistrate, who was spokesman, made him a long and tiresome harangue; he began with saying, That he acknowledged that the city was subject to his Majesty, by the Divine law, and by the Roman law. The conqueror, out of patience, cried, urging his horse forward; *And you may add too, by the cannon law.* (Histoire de France du Pere de Chalons.)

The

The same Prince being fatigued with the long march that he been obliged to make for the relief of Cambray, and passing by Amiens, a body of the citizens came to compliment him in a speech. The orator began with the titles of *Most mighty, most clement, most magnanimous*—“Add too,” said the King, “and most weary; I am going to rest myself; I will hear the remainder another time.” (*Journal de l' Etoile*)

This Prince exposed to equal ridicule another speech-maker, who was presented to him when he was going to dinner. The orator began his discourse with these words; *Hanibal departing from Carthage, Sire,*—and there made a full stop. *Ventre-saint-gris*, exclaimed the King, *Hanibal departing from Carthage had dined, and I am going to do the same thing.* (*Dictionnaire de Portraits Historiques, & Anecdotes des Hommes Illustres.*)

Having

Having twice told another of these speech-makers to abridge his discourse, and finding that he neglected doing so, he left him there, and said as he was going; *You may say the rest to Master William;* this was the court-fool. (*Dictionnaire cité.*)

On the 11th of October of this same year 1591, the King repaired to Sedan, to be present at the marriage of the Viscount de Turenne. When he had retired, after seeing the bride in bed, and the Viscount had conducted him to his apartment, that Nobleman said to him; "Sire, your Majesty hath this day done me a great deal of honour, and I wish to testify my gratitude. I beseech you to excuse me, and not to be uneasy, if I do not lie under the same roof, in order to watch over the safety of your person: I have given proper directions for that." The King asked him what he was about: "Sire,"

“Sire,” replied he, “you shall know it to-morrow morning; I have not time to tell it to you now.” He immediately sets out with a body of troops which he had in readiness, gains possession of the town of Stenay, and brings the news to the King when he was rising. “*Ventre-saint-gris*,” said that Prince to him, “I would often make such marriages, and I should soon be master of my kingdom were the bridegrooms to present me with such wedding gifts as this. But in the mean time let us to business.” He immediately mounted his horse, put himself at the head of his forces, and went to lay siege to Rouen. (*Histoire d’Henry IV.*)

The Baron de Rosny, who accompanied the King to this attack, wished to remonstrate with him upon his exposing so carelessly his person, on which the fate of France depended: “My friend,” answer-

ed the valourous Monarch, "I cannot
" possibly do otherwise; for, since I am
" fighting for my glory and my Crown,
" my life and all things else ought to ap-
" pear of little value to me." (*Memoires
de Sully.*)

On the day of this siege, and in a very hot action near the bridge of Aumale, the King received a shot in the reins, at the extremity of his cuirass. This wound, however, did not prevent him from fighting his way to the other side of the bridge. But the rumour concerning this shot, says Le Grain, was so great, and spread such an alarm amongst his soldiers, that his Majesty was obliged to shew himself in several quarters. To such a degree had the report gained ground, that the enemy immediately dispatched a trumpet, under pretence of demanding an exchange of prisoners. The King ordered the trumpet to be brought into his presence, and said

said to him ; “ Tell the Duke of Parma,
“ your master, that you have seen me
“ stout and jolly, and well prepared to re-
“ ceive him, whenever he hath a mind.”
(*Décade Henri le Grand.*)

It was on this occasion that Duplessis
Mornay wrote him the following letter :
“ Sire, you have sufficiently acted the
“ part of Alexander, it is time for you to
“ become an Augustus. It is ours to die
“ for you, and we place our glory in so
“ doing ; it is your’s, Sire, to live for
“ France, and I will be bold to say, it is
“ your duty.” (*Notes sur l’Henriade.*)

This siege had not the desired success.
The blame was imputed to the Marechal
de Biron ; but though the King consider-
ed this fault as irreparable, and was not a
little displeased with that commander, he
took particular care to dissemble his dis-
pleasure. Nothing better evinces how
much

much Henry IV. thought it necessary to be on terms of complaisance with the Marechal de Biron, than what that Prince said to young Chatillon, upon an occasion where the latter was giving him some very good advice, but contrary to the sentiments of the Marechal. "The goslings
"are for teaching the geese to feed. When
"you have got a white beard, perhaps,
"you may know something of the matter;
"but at this time of day, I do not
"think it proper for you to talk so confidently : that is only allowable in my
"father here ;" pointing to Biron, who had threatened to retire. "We must all," continued Henry, embracing him, "great
"as we are, go to school to him." (*Pierre Mattheu.*)

Henry IV. had not fifteen thousand men, when in 1593, he laid siege to Paris, which at that time contained, at least, two hundred thousand inhabitants. He might
have

have starved the city into a surrender. But his compassion for the besieged incited the soldiers themselves, notwithstanding the prohibitions of their officers, to sell provisions to the citizens. One day, when, to make an example, the officers were going to hang two country fellows, who had brought some cart-loads of bread to a postern, Henry met them, as he was visiting the several quarters. The culprits fell at his feet, and represented to him that they had no other way of gaining their subsistence: *Go in peace*, said the King to them, giving them at the same time all the money he had about him; *the Bearnois is poor*, added he, *if he had more, he would give it to you.* (Dictionnaire de Portraits Historiques, & Anecdotes des Hommes Illustres.)

This Prince was advised to take Paris by assault, before the arrival of the auxiliaries which the King of Spain was sending

ing to the succour of the League : but Henry would never consent to expose that capital to the horrors which a city taken by storm must experience : “ I am,” said he, “ the real father of my people ; I “ am like that genuine mother who presented herself before Solomon ; I would “ much rather not have Paris in my possession, than possess it in a state of utter “ ruin, by the slaughter of so many persons.” (*Dictionnaire cité.*)

During the siege of this city, the Duke of Nemours, who commanded the besieged, ordered all the useless mouths to depart. The King’s Council would willingly have refused them a passage ; but that Prince being informed of the dreadful extremity to which those wretches were reduced, issued orders that they should be permitted to pass. “ I am not surprized,” said he, “ that the Chiefs of the League, “ and the Spaniards have so little compassion

“ sion

“ sion for those unhappy creatures ; they
“ were only their tyrants ; but, as for me,
“ who am their King, I cannot hear the
“ recital of such calamities, without be-
“ ing touched to the very bottom of my
“ heart, and without ardently desiring to
“ apply a remedy to them.” (*Prefixe.*)

The answer of Henry IV. to the Cardinal de Gondi and the Archbishop of Lyons, who were the ordinary deputies of the Parisians, while the siege continued, will serve still more to depict the generosity of soul and the sensibility of this Prince. Those two Prelates, at the first audience granted to them by Henry, presented him with a written paper on the part of the Parisians, in which they gave him only the title of *King of Navarre*. Henry IV. after having perused the paper, thus addressed the two deputies ; “ Were
“ I only King of Navarre, I should have
“ nothing to do with the peace of Paris,
“ and

“ and of France: but, to speak out at
“ once, without troubling myself with this
“ formality, know that there is no one
“ thing which I have so nearly at heart,
“ as to see my kingdom restored to tran-
“ quillity. I am no dissembler; I speak
“ soundly, and without deceit, the real
“ sentiments of my heart. I should do
“ wrong, were I to tell you that I am not
“ desirous of a general peace; I wish it,
“ I am anxious for it. To have a battle,
“ I would give a finger, and for a general
“ peace I would give two. I love my
“ city of Paris. It is my eldest daugh-
“ ter; I am jealous of her; I wish to do
“ her more good, and shew her more fa-
“ vour and more mercy than she asks of
“ me; but I will have her thank myself
“ for it, and not the Duke of Mayenne,
“ nor the King of Spain. Had they
“ brought about the peace and pardon
“ which I would grant to her, to them
“ would she be indebted for the benefit;

D

“ she

“ she would consider them as her deliver-
“ ers, and not myself, which is a matter
“ I don’t desire. Moreover,” continued
the Monarch, “ your requisition to defer
“ the surrender of Paris, till a general
“ peace takes place, (which cannot be ef-
“ fected without sending frequent messen-
“ gers backward and forward) were a thing
“ too prejudicial to my city of Paris,
“ which cannot wait so long; consider
“ what a multitude hath already perished
“ with hunger! You, Lord Cardinal,
“ ought to have some pity for them; they
“ are your sheep, for whose least drop of
“ blood you must be responsible to God
“ Almighty; and you likewise, my Lord
“ of Lyons, who are Primate over all the
“ other Bishops. I am but a sorry theo-
“ logian; yet I know enough to tell you,
“ that God hath no notion of your treat-
“ ing in this manner the poor people
“ whom he hath entrusted to your care.”
The Deputies having answered, That,
should

should Paris be surrendered without the consent of the Duke of Mayenne, that Prince would come, at the head of all the troops of Spain, and retake it. "Should he come," replied the King, "and all his allies along with him, by God, we will give them a good beating, and shew them that the French Nobility know how to defend themselves. Contrary to my custom, I have been guilty of swearing; but I tell you again, that, by the living God, we will not endure such an affront." (*Memoires de Sully.*)

The religion which Henry IV. professed, was a pretext for several of his rebellious subjects to foment divisions. His best friends, therefore, and Rosny himself, advised him to embrace the communion of the Romanists. The Protestant Ministers had declared to Henry, that salvation might be effected within the pale of the Roman Church: that Monarch,

accordingly took policy for his guide, when it left his conscience in security, and said one day with a good deal of pleasantry; *Ventre-saint-gris*——*Paris is well worth a Mass.*

Several Protestant Lords, however, disapproved this step of Henry IV. and wearied him with their remonstrances. This made him write thus to Gabrielle d'Estrées: “On Sunday I am to take the
“perilous leap. At this moment, while
“I am writing, I have a hundred teasing
“persons at my elbow, who will make me
“hate St. Denis as heartily as you do
“Mantes, &c.” (*Recueil de ses Lettres.*)

There was a numerous Court assembled at St. Denis, where the ceremony of the abjuration was to be performed, and every thing there was conducted with great pomp and magnificence. The streets were adorned with tapestry, and strewn with flowers.

flowers. A prodigious multitude made the air resound with their acclamations and redoubled cries of *Long live the King!* The men raised their hands to Heaven, the women shed tears of joy, and cried incessantly, "God bless him, and soon bring him to our church of Notre Dame."

At the entrance of the church of the Abbey of St. Denis, but within-side, he found the Archbishop of Bourges in his pontificals, seated on a bench covered with white damask embroidered with the arms of France, and beside that Prelate, who, on this occasion, performed the office of Grand Almoner, the Cardinal of Bourbon, several Bishops, and the Monks of the Abbey, who attended with the Cross, the Book of the Evangelists, and the Holy Water. When the King had approached, the Archbishop thus interrogated him; "Who are you?" *I am the King,* answered

swered Henry. "What is your desire?" *I desire to be received into the bosom of the Holy Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church,* "Do you sincerely wish it?" *Yes, I wish and desire it;* that instant he fell on his knees, and made his profession of faith in these terms: *I protest and swear, in the presence of the Almighty, to live and die in the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Religion; to protect and defend it from all its enemies, at the peril of my blood and of my life, renouncing all heresies which are contrary to its doctrines.* He then put into the hands of the Archbishop a paper, in which this profession was written and signed by his own hand. The Prelate, raising him up, made him kiss his ring, pronounced the absolution, gave him the benediction, and embraced him. (*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

The city of Meaux, which belonged to the party of the League, having heard of the conversion of Henry IV. immediately

diately acknowledged him for her lawful Sovereign. The Duke of Mayenne reproached Vitry, who was the Governor, with having betrayed him, by delivering up Meaux to the King. Vitry returned the following answer to the messenger :
“ You urge me too far ; you will at length
“ oblige me to speak like a soldier. I ask
“ you, if a thief, who had stolen a purse,
“ had given it to me to keep for him,
“ and if afterwards, finding the right
“ owner, I should restore to him the purse,
“ and refuse to give it to the thief who had
“ entrusted it to me, should I, in your
“ opinion, be guilty of a dishonourable
“ and perfidious action ? Thus it is with
“ regard to the city of Meaux.” (*Memoires pour l'Histoire de France.*)

The example of Vitry was followed by several other Governors of places in the interest of the League. At length, Paris opened her gates to King Henry, on the

22d of March, 1594, by the dexterous management of the Count de Brissac, Governor of the city, assisted by the Sieurs de Vic, de Belin, the President le Maître, de Molé, and other Members of the Parliament, the Prevot des Marchands, l'Huillier, and the Echevins. The King's troops immediately took possession of the Louvre, the Palais, the great and little Châtelet. Nothing now remained to the Spaniards, but the Bastile, the Temple, and the districts of St. Antoine and St. Martin, where they were quartered. Accordingly they found themselves considerably embarrassed; but the King sent a message to the Duke de Feria, and Don Diego d'Evora, who commanded those forces, to let them know that they might quit Paris, and retire in perfect safety. He behaved with the same lenity to the Cardinals of Placentia, and de Pellevé, whatever resentment he might have harboured for their conduct with respect to him.

him. Soissons was the place to which all these enemies of Henry IV. retired, under protection of a strong escort. His Majesty had a mind to see them depart, and observed them, as they passed by, from a window over the gate of St. Denis. They all saluted him with a low bow, and with their hats touching the ground. He returned the salute of all the leaders, with an air of goodness and courtesy, adding these words: *Remember me to your Master, and go in a good hour, but return hither no more.* (Prefixe.)

This Monarch signalized his entry into the capital by the following stroke of equity:—Some serjeants had just arrested the equipage of Lanoue, one of his officers, for certain debts which his illustrious father had contracted in support of the good cause. That haughty and valiant officer went immediately to complain of so particular an act of insolence. *Lanoue, said*

the King to him publicly, *debts must be paid, I pay mine.* After this he drew him aside, and gave him his own jewels, to pawn to the creditors, in place of the baggage which had been arrested. (*Perefixe.*)

The King set forward on his way to offer up his thanksgiving in the church of Notre-Dame. The people unceasingly testified their joy, by eager shouts of *Vive le Roi.* When his majesty had alighted at the door of the church, the throng became so great, that he was pressed on every side. The Captains of the guards were endeavouring to make the multitude retire, in order to facilitate his passage. "No," said he, "I had rather they "would press me more, and that they "should see me at their ease; for they "hunger after the sight of a King." (*Journal de l'Etoile.*)

"A plea-

“A pleasant circumstance happened to me at church,” said he to Gabrielle d’Estrées in a letter, which he wrote on this occasion, or on some other of the like nature; “An old woman of fourscore came and took me by the head, and kissed me: I was not the first to laugh at it.” (*Receuil des Lettres d’Henri IV.*)

The satisfaction which this Monarch enjoyed, upon this happy day, augmented his natural gaiety. Sitting down to supper at the Hotel-de-Ville, he said, laughing, as he looked at his feet; *That he had been spattered in coming to Paris, but that he had not missed his steps.* (*Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.*)

The next day, he invited to dinner the Secretary Nicolas; a person very well known at Court. He was a man of wit, and piqued himself on making verses. “He was,” says Brantome, “a fat joyous fellow,

“ fellow, a good companion, of a pleasant wit, and one whose natural temperament inclined him to love good cheer.”

It was for this quality, that Henry asked him to dinner. *Monsieur Nicolas*, said the King to him, *which party did you follow during the troubles?* “ In truth, Sire,

“ I quitted the sun to follow the moon.”

But what say you at seeing me in Paris?

“ I say, Sire, that they have rendered

“ unto Cæsar what belonged to Cæsar, as

“ we must render unto God what belongeth

“ to God.” *Ventre-saint-gris, they have*

not rendered it unto me, they have sold it to

me very dear. Brissac, Governor of Paris,

and some others, who had stipulated for

their own private interests, before they

rendered unto Cæsar what belonged to

him, were present at this conversation.

(*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

Villeroy, one of the leaders of the third party, was not among the first to pay his
homage

homage to Henry IV. necessity alone at last fixt his irresolution, or obliged him to force his inclination. Though he and his son held only a few towns of no great importance, he, nevertheless, contrived to make Henry pay a very high price for them. The King having gone one day to Villeroy's, to partake of a collation, with a dozen or fifteen of his courtiers, said at table to them; "My friends, we
"are all at a *Table d'Hote*;* let us eat
"heartily for our money, for we have a
"host who will make us pay a dear reck-
"oning. (*Journal de l'Etoile.*)

The Magistrates of Paris, the day after the city was surrendered to the King, presented that Prince with Hippocras, sugar-plums, and flambeaux, and besought his Majesty to excuse the poverty of the

* An Ornary.

city of Paris. He told them, "That he
"thanked them for having, on the pre-
"ceding day, made him a present of their
"hearts, and now of their fortunes; that
"he accepted these gifts with the highest
"degree of pleasure; and added, that,
"as a proof of it, he would remain with
"them under their guard, and that he
"would have no other." (*Histoire citée.*)

The Duchess of Montpensier, who had
been the most active in fomenting the dis-
sentions, being presented to the King, he
received her with as much cordiality, as
if he had had nothing to reproach her
with. The Duchess having told him,
upon his entry into Paris, that she could
have wished that the Duke of Mayenne,
her brother, had been the person who
lowered the draw-bridge for his Majesty to
enter, Henry answered; *Ventre-saint-gris,*
he would have made me wait a long time,
and I should not have made my entry so soon.

It was this lady, who, according to l'Etoile, said, laughing, that Brissac had done more than his wife, who, in fifteen years, had made only one cuckold sing; whereas he, in eight days, had set more than twenty thousand parrots in Paris singing. (*Journal d'Etoile.*)

All those who desired a pardon, obtained it from the victorious Monarch; One of the Leaguers coming to seek him, while he was playing tennis; Come, said the King to him, *you are welcome; if we win, you shall be of our party.* (*Journal de l'Etoile.*)

As the faithful servants of this Prince were representing to him, that his too great clemency to his enemies might prove prejudicial to him, he returned them this answer, which displays all the goodness of his heart; "If you, and all those who hold this language, were daily to say
" your

“ your *Pater Noster* with sincerity, you
“ would not talk to me in this manner.
“ As for me, I acknowledge that all my
“ victories were owing to God, who ex-
“ tends his mercy to me in many respects,
“ although I am utterly unworthy of it.
“ As he forgives me, so would I forgive
“ others, and, forgetting the faults of my
“ people, be still more clement and more
“ merciful to them than I have been. If
“ there be any who have been overlooked,
“ it is sufficient for me that they are sensi-
“ ble of their own misdoings : so let me
“ hear no more about them.” (*Journal*
de l'Etoile.)

The city of Paris was reduced to obedience under Henry IV. without any effusion of blood, except two or three of the Bourgeois who were killed. “ Were
“ it in my power,” said the good King,
“ I would give fifty thousand crowns for
“ the lives of those two citizens, in order
“ to

“ to have the satisfaction of handing down
“ to posterity, that I took Paris without
“ bloodshed.” (*Tablettes Historiques des
Rois de France.*)

The Spaniards still occupied some places in France; Henry IV. pursued them every where. On the day of Fontaine-Françoise, the 5th of June, 1595, the King having rashly exposed his person with a few horse, saw flying before him eighteen thousand men, commanded by Ferdinand de Velasco and the Duke of Mayenne. The King, in shewing an example to his soldiers, had thrown himself into the midst of the enemy's squadrons, and, by the dint of valour and courage, broken their ranks, and obliged them to give ground. His life had never before been in such danger. Accordingly he wrote to his sister after the action of that day; *You were very near becoming my heiress.*

ress. (Abrégé Chronologique de l'Histoire de France.)

Gilbert Filhet de la Curée fought in that action without armour, and ill-mounted. A voice, which he knew to be the King's, cried out to him, *Take care, la Curée*, at the very moment when one of the enemy was going to run him through with his lance. La Curée immediately turned about, and slew the man who was attacking him. (*Manuscrit de la Bibliothèque du Roi.*)

After the battle, La Curée went to look for the King, who was still on horseback, and, embracing his knee, said ; “ Sire, “ it is a good thing to have a master that “ is like you ; for he saves the lives of his “ servants at least once a day : twice, in “ the course of this day, have I received “ this favour from your Majesty ; the first “ time, in partaking of the general safety ;
the

“the second, when you were pleased to
“cry out to me, *Take care, La Curée,*”
You perceive, answered the King to him,
how much I have at heart the preservation
of my good servants. (Histoire de France,
par Matthieu.)

Henry IV. often said, that, on other
occasions, he had fought for victory, but
that, on this last, he had fought for life.*
(*Prefixe.*)

He was attended in this battle by a gentleman named Mainville, who kept his pistol charged with two steel bullets, for the first of the enemy who should approach too near his Majesty. He watched his opportunity so well, that he shot one through and through the head, and the ball came whistling about the King's ears. That

* *Cæsar* said the same thing, after the battle of *Munda*.

Prince never afterwards mentioned a pistol without recollecting this furious shot. (*Matthieu.*)

On that day, all the officers of his army incessantly repeated to him, that by not taking sufficient care he exposed his person and his kingdom to the greatest danger. *It is not advice that I stand in need of, but assistance,* replied he. Some one having urged him to consult his safety by flight upon an excellent Turkish horse that was in readiness, he rejected the timid counsel, saying, *That there was more danger in flight than in pursuit.* (*Matthieu.*)

This Prince, who had a kingdom to conquer, was persuaded that it became him to inflame, by his example, the hearts of those who fought under his banners. When, upon an occasion like that of Fontaine-Françoise, Sully was reproach-
ing

ing him, in some measure for his excess of bravery; *I cannot do otherwise*, replied the King, *I am fighting for my glory and my crown.*

The Duke of Guise, in this last action of Fontaine-Françoise, pursued the Spaniards as far as Gray, and killed with his own hand a cavalier who had challenged him. Henry embraced him, saying; "It is very right that those who find veteran examples of valour before their eyes, should imitate and renew them for the benefit of those who come after them." (*Histoire de France de Matthieu.*)

The city of Marseilles, which had formerly given such distinguished proofs of its affections for its Sovereigns, in the two sieges which it sustained against the Constable Bourbon and Charles the Fifth, seemed to have utterly degenerated from
the

the patriotism of its ancient inhabitants. This proud Queen of the Mediterranean had taken advantage of the troubles of the League, to recover her ancient liberty. She disdained to be any longer dependent either on the King or the Duke of Mayenne, and repulsed equally from her walls the Duke of Epemon and the Duke of Savoy. Two enterprising citizens, named Casaux and Louis d'Aix, assumed the state of Tribunes and Dictators in her very bosom. Every thing was performed by their orders: the garrison was on their side, the rest of the inhabitants looked on with silent indignation. Casaux and d'Aix had treated with some indignity a trumpet sent by the King from Lyons, to propose to them an accommodation: the sole answer they gave, was to cut off his ears, and send him back to the King. That Prince was determined to revenge this insolent outrage; but the Duke of Guise was

was before-hand with him. On his arrival in Provence, of which he had been just appointed Governor, he wished to signalize the taking possession of his new government by the reduction of Marseilles. He gained over a Captain of a ship, a native of Corsica, in whom the two tyrants of Marseilles reposed the highest confidence. He was charged with the custody of one of the gates, the only one which was opened in the morning to let out Casaux and d'Aix, who went daily to reconnoitre the environs, in the apprehension of a surprize. Libertat (that was the name of the Corsican Captain) had concerted with the Duke of Guise to shut, on a day appointed, the two Chiefs out of the city; that, mean while, he and the royalists would fall upon the garrison, and open the gates to those succours which should be in the neighbourhood of the town. The plot succeeded, although one
of

of the Chiefs only went out of the city on that day, which was the 17th of February: the gate was shut upon him; the people cried, *Vive le Roi*, and ran immediately to arms. Casaux in astonishment went down to the gate where Libertat was posted, and asked him the meaning of this tumult: Libertat answered him with a blow of his pike, which laid Casaux upon the pavement. The cavalry of the Duke of Guise entered the city. Louis d'Aix, who had gone out, climbed up upon the rampart, by the assistance of a rope that was thrown to him. He entrenched himself in a particular quarter with six hundred Spaniards; but he could not hold out against the fury of the citizens; he made his escape, and the Spaniards saved themselves on board the fleet which had brought them thither. All those who had been attached to the party of the tyrants were massacred without pity.

Thus

Thus the citizens of Marseilles themselves revenged their Monarch for the insult which he had received before their city : at the same time they revenged their own patriotism. When Henry heard this great news, he exclaimed, in the first emotions of his joy, *It is now that I am a King!* Flattering expressions to the inhabitants of that opulent city ; they shewed his high opinion of their attachment and fidelity, and what esteem the nation itself should entertain for them. (*Histoire du Patriotisme François.*)

In 1596, the Spaniards threatened the city of Calais ; Henry IV. dispatched Sancy, one of his officers, to England, in order to engage Queen Elizabeth to succour it, which she could do the more readily, as the Earl of Essex was in the Channel with a powerful fleet. The Queen told Sancy, that she would let the

E

King

King know her intentions by her Ambassador then at his Court. This was Lord Sidney, who plainly told his Majesty, that the Queen had designs of more importance for the welfare of her dominions, than the relief of Calais ; that she would, nevertheless, make some efforts to prevent the Spaniards from taking it, provided he would consent to pledge it to the Crown of England, until those sums were repaid which she had lent his Majesty, since she first began to assist him to maintain the war against his enemies. The King received this proposal very ill, and said, turning his back upon Lord Sidney, *That if he was to be bitten, he would as soon it should be by a lion as by a lioness.* (Matthieu, & Histoire d'Henri IV.)

The King, resolved to attempt every thing for the relief of Calais, and having no troops with him sufficient to force the
camp

camp of the besiegers, took the only part which remained for him to take, that of throwing himself into the place, at the head of such as were willing to follow him. Twice he embarked, and was as often repulsed by contrary winds. Soon after he received the news of the loss of Calais. Instead of shewing any chagrin, he cried, with a serene countenance, as if this accident had given him no affliction; “ Now, “ indeed, my friends, there is no farther “ remedy; Calais is taken; but we must “ not, however, be surprized, nor lose “ our courage, since it is in affliction that “ brave men exert their native valour, and “ reinforce themselves with hope. It is a “ common thing in war, to win at one “ time, and lose at another. Our enemies “ have had their turn, and, with the help “ of God, (who never yet failed me, when “ I prayed to him with fervour) we shall “ have ours; so let us think no more of

“ complaint or lamentation, or of blam-
“ ing and reproaching one another. On
“ the contrary, let us pay due honour to
“ the memory of the dead, nor deny the
“ praise merited by the generous defence
“ made by the living ; and let us seek the
“ means of taking our revenge, with
“ usury, upon the enemy, and effecting,
“ (as I trust with the favour of Heaven we
“ shall) that that town may remain only as
“ many days in the hands of the Spani-
“ niards, as our predecessors left it years
“ in the possession of the English.” (*Me-
moires de Sully.*)

The unhappy condition of the finances obliged this Monarch, in the same year, 1596, to convene the Notables in the city of Rouen. When the several Members were arrived, the King repaired to the great hall of St. Oüen, accompanied by the Legate, several Cardinals and Bishops, the

the chief Lords of the kingdom, the First Presidents of the Sovereign Courts, several Gentlemen, and a great number of Seneschals and Magistrates of cities; and, in fine, by those who had been freely elected to sit in that Assembly; for the King would not nominate any person. He opened the Assembly with the following discourse, which is worthy of the high idea we entertain of this great Prince: “Were I to place my glory,” said he, “in passing for an accomplished orator, I should have brought hither more fine words than good-will; but my ambition aspires to something still higher than oratory; I aim at the glorious titles of *Deliverer and Restorer of France*. By the favour of Heaven, by the wise counsels of such of my servants as are not of the profession of arms, by the swords of my brave and generous Nobility, by my own toils and labours, I have rescued

“ her from mischief ; let us now save her
 “ from ruin Partake, my subjects, in
 “ this second glory with me, as you have
 “ already partaken in the first. I have not
 “ summoned you hither, as my predeces-
 “ sors have done, to oblige you to pay a
 “ blind obedience to my will ; I have as-
 “ sembled you, in order to receive your
 “ advice, to trust in it, and to follow it ;
 “ in a word, to put myself under your
 “ guardianship ; it is a wish entertained by
 “ few Monarchs, few grey-beards, few
 “ conquerors like me ; but the love which
 “ I bear my subjects, and my extreme
 “ anxiety for the preservation of my king-
 “ dom, cause every thing to appear easy,
 “ every thing honourable to me.” (*Pere-
 fixe.*)

After this first session, the King asked
 the Duchess of Beaufort,* his mistress,

* Gabrielle d'Étrec.

who

who had been listening to his speech, concealed behind a piece of tapestry, what she thought of it; "I have never," said she, "heard better oratory; the only thing that surprized me, was, to hear your Majesty talk of putting yourself under guardianship." *Ventre-saint-gris*, answered Henry, *that is true; but I meant it with my sword by my side.*

The same day, at dinner, they were talking of the *Sieur Langlois*, *Prevôt des Marchands*, who had been appointed to harangue his Majesty for the Third Estate, and who had been so much embarrassed in pronouncing his speech, that the Advocate *Talon*,* at that time *Echevin*, was obliged to speak it for him; which he did very ably, says the author of the *Journal d'Henri IV.* The King laughed, and

* The word *salon* signifies a *beel*.

said; "If my Prevôt hath his tongue in
"his heels, he is not therefore the less an
"honest man, and I do not esteem him the
"less for it." (*Journal d'Henri IV.*)

The Spaniards, who still remained in France, had, in 1597, surprized the city of Amiens, which had no other defenders than its inhabitants. On the 11th of March, Hernandes Teillo-Porto Carrero, an old Spanish officer, had disguised thirty Spanish soldiers in the habits of peasants and countrymen, bringing provisions to market. These crowded about one of the gates of the city, and amused the corps de-garde, by overturning, at the entrance, a cart loaded with sacks of nuts, one of which was untied; meanwhile, the Spanish troops, who were concealed behind the hedges, approached, fell furiously on the corps-de-garde, and possessed themselves of the city. The King heard this
news

news the night after, as he was coming from a ball given by the Marechal de Bi-ron. He was filled with consternation. "It is a stroke from Heaven," cried he; "those poor souls, by having refused a
"a garrison which I would have given
"them, have been ruined." Then musing for a little while; "I have acted the
"King of France sufficiently," cried he, "it is time to play the King of Navarre." Turning to the Duchess of Beaufort, who was weeping, he said to her; "My
"mistress, we must away with our tears,
"and to horse, to carry on another war."
(*Journal de l'Etoile.*)

Henry IV. retook Amiens, notwithstanding the efforts of the Cardinal Archduke Albret, who was at the head of a powerful army of Spaniards. This General had not resolution to give battle to Henry, and retreated; which made that

Prince say, "That the Archduke came
"like a captain, and went away like a
"priest, and return but ill satisfied," said
he, still with an air of pleasantry, "with
"the courtesy of the Spaniards, who
"would not advance a single step to re-
"ceive me, and have refused with an ill-
"grace the honour which I intended
"them." (*Manuscrit de la Bibliotheque
du Roi, & Prefixe.*)

When the Governor of the city for the
King of Spain had given up the keys to
the French officers, he was conducted to
Henry, who was on horseback about half
a mile from thence. The Governor, be-
fore he approached that Prince, alighted,
and, embracing his knees, said to him in
Italian; "That he yielded up the town
"into the hands of a Soldier-King, since
"his Master had not thought fit to suc-
"cour it by Soldier-Captains." (*Davila.*)

On

On the 2d of May, 1598, a treaty of peace was concluded between France and Spain. It was represented to Henry IV. before he signed the treaty, that Philip II. his adversary, was very near dying, and that it would be easy for him to humble a Power, which was only upheld by the refined policy of that Monarch. But Henry replied with firmness; "That if
" he desired peace, it was not that he
" dreaded the inconveniences of war; that
" he wished to obtain for Christendom the
" means of enjoying repose; that he was
" well aware, that, in the present situation
" of affairs, he could derive great advantages from war; but that as it was a
" species of barbarism, and contrary to the
" laws and essence of Christianity, to make
" war for the love of war alone, a Christian Potentate ought never to refuse
" peace, unless it was altogether disadvantageous to him." (*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

Henry

Henry IV. when raised to the Throne of France, never forgot that God had made use of his Huguenot subjects, and particularly of the cities of Rochelle, Bergerac, and Montauban, to relieve him from the oppression of Spain, to aid him in asserting his just rights, and even to save his life from the machinations of the League. One day, when the Deputies of Rochelle were introduced to him, he stiled the people of that city *his very good friends*; expressions which gratitude alone had dictated to this Prince, who several times had occasion to complain, that Rochelle and the other Calvinist cities had preserved nothing of their ancient sentiments of honour. Henry, however, still continued to shew them marks of his favour; and to justify in some measure his beneficence, he often quoted, says Sully, different instances of the inviolable attachment of the province of Poitou, when, to use

use the King's expression, neither *Bouillons*, * nor *brouillons*, † were to be heard of in it. (*Memoires de Sully.*)

The Protestants required Henry to grant them places of security. "I am," said he, "the sole security of my subjects; I have never yet failed of my word to any one." When they objected to him, that Henry III. his predecessor, had allowed them this indulgence; "The times," replied he, "obliged him to fear you, and he did not love you; now I love you, and do not fear you." (*Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.*)

Henry IV. was, nevertheless, persuaded, that the welfare of the kingdom required

* The Duke of *Bouillon* was one of the heads of the Calvinist party.

† Shufflers.

that

that those Dissenters should be retained in France, and established upon a secure foundation. Accordingly, he issued at Nantes, in 1599, an edict in their favour. When the question came to be agitated, whether this edict should be enregistered by the Parliament, he met with a great many difficulties and much opposition, as well on the part of that Sovereign Court, as on that of the Clergy and the University. The Parliament had named Deputies to remonstrate with him upon this edict. After affording them a hearing, he replied to them, among others, in these remarkable expressions: "Sirs, you see
" me in my closet, where I have spoken
" to you, not in my royal robes, nor with
" hood and sword, like my predecessors,
" nor as a Prince who was giving audience to Ambassadors; but clad, like the
" father of a family, in my doublet, to
" speak familiarly to my children. I have
" listened!

“ listened to your supplications and remon-
“ strances, to those made by word of
“ mouth, as well as to those delivered in
“ writing; I will always receive such as
“ you shall make me with good intentions,
“ as persons well-affected to my service.
“ I take in good part the counsels of my
“ servants. When they give me good
“ advice I embrace it; and, if I find their
“ opinion to be better than my own, I alter
“ my own very willingly. There is not
“ one of you who, when he hath a mind
“ to come and say to me; Sire, such a
“ thing which you are agitating is unjust,
“ and contrary to reason, shall not obtain
“ a ready hearing from me. We must no
“ longer make distinctions between Catho-
“ lics and Huguenots; we must all be
“ good Frenchmen; and let the Catholics
“ convert the Huguenots by the example
“ of a pious life. I am a Shepherd-King,
“ and wish not to shed the blood of my
“ sheep;

“sheep; but I desire to gather them together by mildness, &c.” (*Histoire d’Henri IV.*)

Upon another occasion, the Parliament of Paris having refused to enregister his edict of the Consignations, the President Séguier, at the head of several Deputies, repaired to the King, to acquaint him with the motives of the Assembly. “I ask nothing but that,” answered Henry, “refuse me not; if you do, you will oblige me to go myself and verify it, and, perhaps, half a dozen more along with it. Eh! Sirs,” continued he with that agreeable naiveté and goodness which were usual with him, “treat me at least as they treat the monks, and refuse me not *viſtum et veſtitutum*: * you know that I am a ſober man; and as for my habili-

* Food and raiment.

ments,

“ments, look here, Mr. President, how
“I am accoutred.” In truth, no person
at Court was more simply clad than Henry.
(*Dictionnaire des Hommes Illustres.*)

He made the following answer to the
Deputies of the same Parliament, who
were beseeching him to take in good part
the very humble remonstrances of an As-
sembly that was his right hand: “If that
“be so,” said he, “I am your Chief,
“and it is the duty of the hand to pay
“obedience to the head.” In other re-
spects, this Prince ever displayed the most
marked consideration for an Assembly,
which he justly looked on as the firmest
support of his prerogatives and his crown.
(*Dictionnaire cité.*)

The reader must be highly delighted
with the following answer of Henry to the
Deputies of the Clergy, who were repre-
senting

senting to him the wretched condition of the Church of France, and the disorders which reigned in it. "I acknowledge," said the King, "that what you have advanced is true; but I am not the author of all those evils; they existed before I came to the Crown. While the war continued, I ran where the fire raged, in order to extinguish it; at present, when we are enjoying the blessing of repose, I will act as seems consistent with a season of tranquillity. I am sensible that Religion and Justice are the pillars and foundations of this kingdom; but, even if they were not, I would do my best to make them so, step by step, however, as I do in all other matters. I will bring it to pass, with God's help, that the Church shall be in as good condition as it hath been in for these hundred years; but you must, by your good example, repair what the wicked have

“ have damaged, and vigilance must reco-
 “ ver what indifference hath lost. You
 “ have exhorted me to do my duty, I ex-
 “ hort you to do your’s; let us both do
 “ what we can: go you by one road, and
 “ I will take the other; should we meet,
 “ the matter will be soon settled. My
 “ predecessors gave you words, and were
 “ dressed in grand apparel; whereas I, in
 “ my grey jacket, will give you deeds: I
 “ am grey without, but all gold within.
 “ I will write to my Counsel to examine
 “ your papers, and will provide for you
 “ as favourably as possible.” (*Mercur*
de France, année, 1598.)

The Deputies of the Provinces having
 remonstrated to him with respect to the
 Pancarte, (so they termed the impost of
 the *sol* in the *livre*) he listened to them
 with a great deal of mildness, and address-
 ing those of Guienne, thus spoke to them

as a King and as a father : “ The taxes
“ that I levy,” said he, “ are not to en-
“ rich my Ministers and favourites, as
“ was the custom of my predecessor, but
“ in order to support the expences of the
“ State. Had my own domain been suffi-
“ cient for that purpose, I would not
“ have desired a livre from the purses of
“ my subjects ; but, since I always make
“ use of my own first, upon these occa-
“ sions, it is perfectly just that they should
“ contribute from their’s. The relief of
“ my people is what I passionately desire ;
“ never did any of my predecessors so ear-
“ nestly address their prayers to the Al-
“ mighty as I have done, to draw down
“ a blessing upon my reign. The alarms
“ spread amongst you, of my designing
“ to build citadels in your cities, are
“ groundless and seditious ; I desire to
“ have none but in the hearts of my peo-
“ ple.” (*Prefixe.*)

The

The inhabitants of the valleys bordering on the Loire, having been ruined by the inundations from that river, petitioned to be relieved from the Taille, and had written upon this subject to the Duke of Sully, Superintendant of the Finances. That Minister immediately acquainted his royal Master, who made answer in the following terms : “ With respect to the mischief occasioned by the waters, God hath given me, my subjects to watch over them, like my children. Let my Council treat them charitably ; alms are highly pleasing in the sight of God, particularly in accidents of this nature. I should feel a burthen on my conscience ; let them, therefore, relieve the sufferers, as far as they are of opinion my abilities will admit.” (*Encomie Royale.*)

Another proof, no less striking, perhaps, which Henry gave his people of
the

the love he bore them, was, after having been divorced from Margaret of Valois, from his marriage with whom he had experienced much uneasiness, his contracting a second marriage much against his inclination, in 1600, with Mary of Medicis, daughter of Francis, Grand Duke of Tuscany. The King had yielded to the suggestions of Sully, and had left to him the management of the affair. That faithful Minister, in concert with the Commissioners named to act with him, concluded the negotiation in a very little time. Joannini, who was Agent for the Grand Duke, had no sooner arrived, than the articles were drawn and signed. Sully was appointed to present them to the King, who did not expect such expedition in the business. Seeing Sully enter the apartment, he asked him whence he came? *We are come, Sire,* answered Sully, *from marrying you.* Henry remained for some time

time motionless, as if he had been struck by a thunderbolt. He then walked backwards and forwards in his chamber, biting his nails, and evidently possessed by reflections, which agitated him so violently, that he was a long time without uttering a word. At length, coming to himself, like one who had taken his final resolution: "Well then, eod, let it be so; there is no remedy. Since you say that it is for the good of my kingdom that I should marry, marry then I must." He confessed to Rosny, that the fear of succeeding no better the second time than the first, was what caused this irresolution. "Strange inconsistency of the human mind!" cries Sully; "a Prince who had extricated himself with success and glory from a thousand cruel dissensions with which war and politics had embarrassed him, trembles at the bare idea of domestic strife and disturbance." (*Memoires de Sully.*)

The

The Duke of Bellegarde, Grand Equerry, was deputed on the part of the King, to espouse, in the name of his Majesty, the Princess who was destined for him. Cardinal Aldobrandin, previous to his departure on his legation to France, had given her the nuptial benediction on the 7th of October, 1600. She landed at Marseilles the 3d of November following, from which place she repaired to Lyons. The King being informed of it, posted thither in the midst of heavy rain, and attended by several Lords of his Court. It was nine o'clock at night when he reached the bridge of Lyons, where he was made to wait for near an hour; because, in order to surprize the Queen, he would not have his name mentioned. An historian of that time thus relates the first interview between Henry and Mary of Medicis: "The Queen was at supper, and
" the King, wishing to see and examine
" her

“ her at table without being known, en-
“ tered the apartment, which was very
“ much crowded. But he had no soon-
“ er set his foot there, than he was re-
“ cognised by those who stood nearest to
“ the door ; they opened at the right and
“ left to make way for him, which caused
“ his Majesty to retire instantly ; nor did
“ he attempt to enter a second time. The
“ Queen immediately perceived the bustle,
“ but shewed her knowledge of what pas-
“ sed no otherwise, than by pushing away
“ the dishes as often as they were served
“ up to her : she likewise ate so little,
“ that it was evident she sat down to table
“ more for form’s sake, than to eat her
“ supper. When the cloth was taken
“ away, she withdrew from the apartment,
“ and retired to her chamber. As this
“ was what the King waited for, he went
“ up to the door, making M. le Grand go
“ before him, who rapped so loudly, that
“ the

“ the Queen judged it must be the King,
“ and advanced at the very instant when
“ M. le Grand entered, followed by his
“ Majesty, at whose feet the Queen then
“ threw herself. The King embraced
“ her, and raised her up ; and now no-
“ thing was to be seen but compliments,
“ caresses, and kisses, and mutual respect
“ and complaisance. The King then took
“ her by the hand, and led her to the fire-
“ side, where he conversed with her a full
“ half-hour, after which he went to sup-
“ per, but made only a slender meal.
“ Meanwhile he gave notice to Madame
“ de Nemours, to tell the Queen that he
“ had brought no bed with him ; expect-
“ ing that she would let him have share
“ of her’s, which thenceforward was to be
“ common between them. Madame de
“ Nemours carries this message to the
“ Queen, who answered, that she was
“ come only to please his Majesty, and
“ obey

“obey his will, as his very humble servant. This answer being reported to him, he caused himself to be undressed, and went into the Queen’s Chamber, who was already in bed.” (*Chronologie septennaire, année 1600.*)

The King assigned to the Queen, as her Lady of Honour, the Marchioness de Guercheville, to whom he had made love unsuccessfully; telling her, *That since she was really a lady of honour, she should serve the Queen in that capacity.*

Catherine of Rouen, afterwards Duchess of Deux-Ponts, made this answer to Henry upon an occasion of the like nature, *I am too poor to be your wife, and of too good a family to be your mistress.* (*Dictionnaire des Hommes Illustres.*)

The following year, the King received two extraordinary embassies: the first was from the Grand Signior. His Highness had employed, on this occasion, his Physician, who was a Christian, and originally from Marseilles. His credentials bore the following titles: "To the most glorious, "magnanimous, and most mighty Lord "of the Belief of Jesus, Arbiter of the "differences between all the Christian "Princes, Lord of Grandeur, Majesty, "and Riches, Guide of the Greatest, "Henry IV. Emperor of France." (*Manuscrits de la Bibliotheque du Roi.*)

This Ambassador required the King to recal the Duke of Mercœur, who commanded the troops of the Emperor Rodolph, then employed against the Turks. It is well known that the nation hath a firm belief in one of their prophecies, which imports, *That the sword of the French shall*

shall drive the Turks out of Europe, and overturn their empire. To the requisition of the Ambassador the King made the following answer, "Tho' the Duke of Mercœur is my subject, he is the first Prince of the blood of the house of Lorraine, which is an independent sovereignty. With respect to the troops which he hath led into Hungary, he levied them in Lorraine, without my orders, and without my participation."

This embassy is particularly remarkable for the testimonies of high esteem which the Turkish Emperor shewed to Henry IV. His Ambassador told the King, that the Sultan feared neither the Pope, nor the Emperor, nor the King of Spain, nor all the Princes of Christendom; that he was sufficiently powerful to overcome them all, provided the King of France would not afford them any assistance; and that

the Turks considered the French as the only nation in Europe worthy of their amity. (*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

The other embassy which Henry received this year, was sent on the part of the Republic of Venice. This State was long united with France by particular treaties frequently renewed, and by their common interest against the power of Spain. The King had borrowed from this Republic several sums, and, amongst others, a million, for which he had given his bond signed by his own hand. He had not yet paid off the debt, when the Ambassadors of Venice came to France. The King supposed that, when their public audience was over, they would not fail to demand payment of this money, which he was not yet in a condition to discharge; but they did not mention a word to him about it. His Majesty was, on the contrary, agreeably

ably surprized, when the Ambassadors, at their audience of leave, presented him with a magnificent coffer, and at the same time the key of it. The King accepted it, and having opened it in their presence, and that of the whole Court, found within it the bond which he had given to the Republic. Immediately laying his hand upon the hilt of his sword, and pointing to it, he said, *Here is my sword; it shall be always at the service of your Masters.* (Histoire citée.)

On the 17th of September of this same year 1601, Mary of Medicis was delivered of a Prince; the King instantly sent notice of it to Rosny, by a billet conceived in these terms: "The Queen hath this moment been delivered of a son; I give you notice of it, in order that you may rejoice with me." The same day he wrote a second billet to the Duke, in

which he also mentioned the birth of the Dauphin, as a grand subject for joy both to himself and the whole kingdom, a joy which he could not sufficiently express: *Yet it is not so much for what respects myself, (these are his words) as on account of the general welfare of my people. (Memoires de Sully.)*

The delivery was difficult, and the child so disturbed, that it was all purple; a circumstance which, perhaps, destroyed the principles of health within him, and deprived him of a sound constitution. The King, calling down on him the blessing of Heaven, gave him his own, and put his sword to the child's hand, praying God that he would only give him grace to use it for the glory of Heaven, and for the welfare of his people. *(Perefixe.)*

Pierre

Pierre Matthieu adds, that the King said to the Queen, "My dear, rejoice; "God hath given us what we wished for."

Henry, by one of those marks of attention, which are sometimes better proofs of the real sentiment of the heart than any splendid actions, had a mind that the new Prince should be shewn to all Paris. For this purpose, he caused him to be carried openly through that great metropolis. The Parisians manifested, by their redoubled acclamations, how exceedingly they were charmed with this popular condescension. (*Memoires de Sully.*)

Several astrologers were busied in drawing the horoscope of the young Prince. *They will lie so much*, said Henry, *that at last they will speak truth*; words replete with sense, and which gives us to understand, that one ought not to be much surprised,

prised, if those jugglers sometimes stumble upon a true prophecy.

This same year, the King signed a treaty at Lyons, by which that Prince suffered the Duke of Savoy to keep the Marquisate of Saluces, for Bresse, Bugey, and other territories dependent on it, which were ceded to him by the said Duke. The Marquisate of Saluces had been wrested from France during the late troubles. When the Duke came to Paris, in order to treat about the restitution, the King entertained him with all the amusements of the Court, which had never been so brilliant. He shewed him all the curiosities of the capital, and conducted him to the Parliament. There was, that day, a very extraordinary and very knotty cause to be pleaded. The Duke and the King were placed in the lanthorn of the Great Chamber. When the first advocate had
done

done speaking ; " He is on the right side," observed the Duke of Savoy ; " the other " will certainly lose his cause." *You do not know what sort of people our advocates are,* replied the King, *have a little patience.* In reality, when the other advocate had pleaded, the Duke agreed that he did not know which of the two parties had the right. (*Menagiana.*)

Some days after, the King went with the Duke to see them play at tennis, near the ditches of the Fauxbourg St. Germain. When the game was over they both stood at a window which looked upon the street. The Duke, seeing a vast concourse, said, that he could not too much admire the opulence and beauty of the kingdom of France. He then asked the King, what the revenue of it might be worth to him? Henry, ever ready at repartee, made answer, *It is worth to me*

as

as much as I wish. The Duke finding this a vague answer, pressed the King to tell what France was really worth to him. Henry accordingly replied as follows: "Yes, it is worth what I wish, because, "possessing the hearts of my people, I can "command whatever I please from them: "and, if God permit me to live for "eighteen months, or two years longer, "I will endeavour to bring things to such "a pass, that there shall not be a peasant "within my kingdom, who may not have "a pullet in his pot every Sunday." After a moment's silence, the King added; "and that shall not hinder me from having wherewithal to maintain a body of "troops, to bring to reason those who "shall offer insults to my authority." The Duke made no answer, and considered this as intended for himself. (*Tablettes Historiques des Roi de France.*)

Henry,

Henry, speaking of this Duke, said aloud in his closet; "He is a brave and
 "gallant Prince; but he keeps from me
 "my Marquisate, and he who loses what
 "belongs to him cannot laugh."

Two Counsellors of State advised Henry IV. to detain the Duke of Savoy prisoner in France, until he had made restitution of the Marquisate of Saluces. "By this
 "measure," said they, "your Majesty will
 "save time, money, and soldiers." The King made answer, "I have learnt from
 "my earliest years, that to keep faith in-
 "violate, is more useful than all that
 "perfidy can authorize. I have before
 "me the example of King Francis I. who
 "might, by an act of treachery, have de-
 "tained a much more important prize,
 "namely, the Emperor Charles the Fifth.
 "If the Duke of Savoy has broken his
 "word, to imitate the faults of others is
 "not

“ not innocence, and a King makes a good
“ use of the perfidy of his enemies, when
“ he employs it as a foil to set off his own
“ fidelity.” He then added, “ That they
“ had a mind to dishonour him, and that
“ he would much rather lose his crown,
“ than incur the slightest suspicion of hav-
“ ing violated good faith, even towards
“ his bitterest enemies.” (*Prefixe.*)

The Duke of Savoy, after the invasion
of the Marquisate of Saluces, in 1598,
had caused a medal to be struck, on the
reverse of which was a Centaur, trampling
on a crown reversed, and with this motto,
Opportuné. When the Duke had consented
to the requisition of Henry, that Monarch
caused likewise a medal to be struck, upon
which he was represented as Hercules,
holding in his right hand a club, in his left
a royal crown, and trampling under foot a
reversed Centaur, with this motto: *Op-
portunius.*

portunius. (Mercure de France, année, 1601.)

The Swiss Cantons, in October, 1602, sent Ambassadors to Henry IV. to renew their alliance with that Monarch. The Ambassadors were two-and-forty in number. The ceremony of renewing the League was performed with much pomp and splendor, in the church of Notre-Dame, where they took an oath, as did likewise the King, to observe the Treaty, such as it had been concluded between the King and the Cantons. The Ambassadors were afterwards conducted into a hall belonging to the Archbishop, where a magnificent entertainment was prepared for them. The King, who had dined in another hall, repaired to that of the Ambassadors after dinner, sat down at the head of the table, enjoined them all to keep their seats, and, having got some wine before

fore him, drank a health to his *Gossips*, as The called them, *and to his friends and allies*; and insisted on the Cardinals de Gondì and Joyeuse, who accompanied him, to do the same. *Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

The Prevôt des Marchands, and the Echevins, had been appointed to receive the Swiss Ambassadors, and defray their expences, and those of their attendants, during their residence at Paris. As this must have put the city to charges which it was not in a condition to bear, the Prevôt des Marchands applied to Henry for permission to lay a tax upon the fountains. "Look out," said that benignant Prince to them, "for some other means, not burthensome to my people, to supply the expence of entertaining my allies. It belonged only to Jesus Christ to turn water into wine." (*Matthieu.*)

About

About the year 1605, Henry was inclined to make some regulation with respect to the annuities upon the Hotel de Ville, of Paris. Whereupon several assemblies of the citizens were held, in which Francis Miron, the Prevôt des Marchands, addressed the King's Commissioners with a considerable degree of firmness. At the same time a rumour was spread amongst the people of Paris, that their Magistrate was threatened, for having exerted himself too warmly in their behalf. The citizens crowded about his house, in order to defend him. But Miron, says Perefixe, immediately requested them to retire, and not to render him really criminal. He represented to them, that there was nothing to be apprehended; that they had to do with a King as great and as wise, as he was beneficent and just; and who would not suffer himself to be hurried away by the instigations of evil counsellors. The
persons,

persons, however, whose conduct had been arraigned by Miron, endeavoured to persuade the King to punish that Magistrate, and deprive him of his office, treating his actions and discourse as the offspring of rashness and disobedience. But that Monarch thus made answer ; “ Authority doth not always consist in carrying things with a high hand. Regard must be paid to times, persons, and the subject-matter. I have been ten years in extinguishing the flames of civil discord, and dread even the smallest sparks of it. Paris hath cost me too dear, for me to run the risk of losing it ; which, in my opinion, would unquestionably be the case, were I to follow your advice ; because I should be obliged to make terrible examples, which, in a few days would deprive me of the glory of my clemency, and the affection of my people, which I prize as much, and even
“ more

“ more than my Crown. I have experienced, on many occasions, the fidelity and probity of Miron, who harbours no ill intentions; but, undoubtedly, he deemed himself bound, by the duties of his office, to act as he hath done. If some unguarded expressions have escaped him, I am willing to pardon them, on account of his past services. After all, if the man affects to become a martyr in the public cause, I will disappoint him of that glory, and avoid meriting the titles of persecutor and tyrant.”

Henry, continues Perefixe, received with humanity the apology and very humble submission of Miron, and revoked the orders which he had issued with respect to the annuities, which had occasioned such an alarm amongst the people.

L'Etoile relates, that on the 26th of January, 1607, there was acted, at the
Hotel

Hotel de Bourgogne, at Paris, a pleasant farce, at which the King, the Queen, the greater part of the Princes, Lords, and Ladies of the Court, were present. The subject was a quarrel between a married man and his wife. The wife told her husband, that he staid tippling at the tavern, while executions were daily laid upon their goods, for the Taille which must be paid to the King, and that all their substance was carried away. "It is for
"that very reason," said the husband in his defence, "that we should make merry
"with good cheer; for what the Devil
"service would all the fortune we could
"amass be of to us, since it would not
"belong to ourselves, but to this same
"noble King. For this reason I will drink
"the more, and that too of the very best:
"Monsieur the King shall not meddle with
"that; go fetch me some this minute;
"march." *Ah, wretch!* replied the wife,
would

would you bring me and your children to ruin?

During this dialogue, three officers of justice come in, and demand the Taille, and, in default of payment, prepare to carry away the furniture. The wife begins a loud lamentation, and at length the husband asks them what they are? *We belong to Justice*, say the officers: "How, to Justice!" replies the husband; "they who belong to Justice act in another guess manner; I do not believe that you are what you say." During this altercation the wife seized a trunk, upon which she seated herself. The officers commanded her, *in the King's name*, to open it; after several disputes, the trunk is opened, and out jumps three devils, who carry away the three officers of justice. The Magistrates conceiving themselves to be insulted, caused the actors to be taken up, and committed them to prison: but they were discharged, the same day, by express command

command of his Majesty, who told those that were complaining of them, "That
" they were fools; that if any had a right
" to take offence, it was himself, who had
" received more abuse than any of them;
" that he had pardoned the comedians,
" and pardoned them from his heart, in-
" asmuch as they had made him laugh
" till he cried again." (*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

Don Pedro de Toledo, having occasion, in 1608, to take a journey into the Netherlands, touched at Paris in his way. Henry, who knew that the Spaniards, with a view to form alliances more easily against him, were propagating reports that he was eaten up by the gout, and that he could no longer mount his horse, thought it incumbent on him to let them see that his vigour was undiminished. He received Don Pedro in the grand gallery at Fontainebleau,

tainebleau, made him take twenty or thirty turns at such a rate, that he put him out of breath, and then said to him; "You see, " Sir, that I am very well, and that I am " not so much incommoded with the gout, " that, if the Spaniards desire war, I should " not be sooner mounted on horseback, " than they would have put foot in the " stirrup." (*Mercuré François.*)

At another audience, Don Pedro told Henry, that his Catholic Majesty desired to be allied to him more strictly, by making a double marriage between their children, provided he would withdraw his protection from the Low Countries. "My " children," answered the King, "are " sufficiently well descended, to find matches. I have no desire for friendships " that are under constraints, and clogged " with conditions. I will not abandon my " friends; and those who wish not to be " of

“ of that number, may repent of being
“ my enemies.” Upon this, Don Pedro
endeavoured to magnify the power of
Spain. Henry replied, “ That that power
“ gave him no uneasiness ; that it was the
“ statue of Nebuchodonasor, composed of
“ divers metals, but having feet of clay.”
Don Pedro, piqued at this discourse, em-
ployed reproaches and menaces. “ All
“ this,” replied Henry, “ cannot impose
“ on me. If the King your master con-
“ tinues his attempts, I will carry fire to
“ the very gates of the Escorial, and you
“ shall soon see me at Madrid.” *Francis*
the first was there, answered the Spaniard
in a haughty tone : “ It is for that very
“ reason,” rejoined the King, “ that I
“ would go and revenge his wrongs, those
“ of France, and my own.” Then, low-
ering his voice, he said, “ Mr. Ambassa-
“ dor, you are a Spaniard, and I am a
“ Gascon; let us not get into a passion.”

The

The conversation then proceeded with a great deal of mildness and good breeding. (*Histoire d'Henri IV. par Perefixe.*)

Some time after, Henry, shewing to the same Ambassador the buildings at Fontainebleau, asked him what he thought of them. The Ambassador, proud and malicious, said, that the apartments were all fine; *but*, added he, taking notice of the chapel, *God Almighty will be much straitened for room here.* “Oh!” replied the King, somewhat piqued at this reproach, “you Spaniards only provide God with
“temples made of earthly materials; we
“French do not merely lodge Him in
“stone, but likewise in our hearts, and
“that is better; when He shall be lodged
“in your’s, I am afraid it will be but in
“stone.” He then said with a smile,
“Don’t you see that the work is not yet
“finished? It is not my intention to have
“it in its present state. There are few

G

“private

“ private gentlemen who have not chapels
“ in their houses ; I don’t wish to see mine
“ without one.” (*Le Grain.*)

From Fontainebleau they went to Paris, where the King, shewing the Ambassador the Gallery of the Louvre, asked him what he thought of it ? *The Escurial is quite another thing*, said Don Pedro. *I believe so*, replied Henry ; then taking him to the window, and shewing him the city of Paris, *Hath the Escurial as fine suburbs ?* (Jean de Serres.)

In Spain, the Grandees of the first class appear in presence of the King with their hats on, before they have spoken to him. At the first audience given by Henry to Don Pedro, that Prince, seeing the Ambassador enter without uncovering, desired, in order to mortify the proud Spaniard, the Marechals of France, and the Dukes who were present, to put on their hats.

Don

Don Pedro, notwithstanding his haughtiness, was, however, the first to admire the high courage and bravery of Henry IV. One day at the Louvre, seeing the King's sword in the hands of his cloak-bearer, he advanced up to it, put one knee to the ground, and kissed the weapon, *rendering, said he, this honour to the most glorious sword in Christendom.*

Francis d'O, who had been Superintendent of the Finances under Henry III. continued to preside over them under Henry IV. who gave him the government of Paris. This Prince heard of the riches accumulated by that Minister; still, however, he suffered him to keep his place, through fear of disobeying the Lords of the Catholic party, by whom d'O was much beloved. When that Minister was attacked by a malady which brought him to the grave, several persons applied for the government of Paris and of the Isle

de France : the King's answer was; "Ma-
ny of them will be disappointed; for I
intend to bestow this government on my-
self, and we see no rascals made Go-
vernors of Paris : so, if I am Governor,
I will do my business like others, and,
please God, will acquit myself of my
duty as I ought."

During the administration of that Super-
intendant, the King had found himself in
very great want of money, as we may
judge from the following letter, which he
wrote to Sully : " My friend, I wish to ac-
quaint you with the condition to which
I am reduced, which is nothing less
than this ; I am near the enemy, and
have not, I may say, a horse on which
I can go to battle, nor a complete
suit of armour to put upon my back ;
my shirts are all ragged, my doublets
out at the elbows ; my kettle is fre-
quently turned upside down ; and, for
these

“ these two days past, I have dined and
“ supped with one person and another, my
“ purveyors declaring, that they have no
“ longer wherewithal to furnish my table,
“ and that it is more than six months since
“ they have received any money. Judge,
“ however, if I deserve to be thus treat-
“ ed, and if I ought any longer to endure
“ that my treasurers should famish me,
“ while their own tables are covered in the
“ most expensive manner; that my house
“ should abound in wants, and theirs in
“ riches and magnificence.” (*Histoire d’
Henri IV.*)

The King playing one day at tennis
with the Superintendant, made him ob-
serve that the markers stole their balls,
and then said aloud, *d’O, you see how we
are pillaged by all the world.* (*Le Grain.*)

Another day, the King having won
four hundred crowns at tennis, made the

waiters gather them together, and put them into his hat: "I will take good care," said Henry, "that they shall not rob me of these; for these shall not pass through the hands of my treasurers." (*Journal d'Henri IV.*)

There was, however, in the reign of Henry IV. some prosecutions instituted against the Financiers. Largentier, the Farmer-General, was sent to prison, and a process commenced against him. The Memoirs for the History of France, after having mentioned his speculation and his mismanagement, subjoins this circumstance: "On the King's last journey to Fontainebleau, Largentier, being come to take leave of his Majesty, said, that he would soon repair thither, in order to kiss his hand, and receive his orders;" adding, "that journey will cost me ten thousand crowns." *Ventre-saint-gris*, exclaimed the King, 'tis too much for a journey

ney

ney to Fontainebleau. "Yes, Sire," replied Largentier; "but I have another matter to perform, with your Majesty's good leave, which is to take the model of the front of your palace, in order to have one like it to a house I have in Champagne." At this the King laughed, without making him any answer; but, when an account came, that Largentier had been sent prisoner to the Châtelet; *How*, said Henry, *would he take the model of the front of the Châtelet too?*

Letters, the ornament of a happy reign, recovered some degree of glory under Henry IV. Talents were rewarded. Casaubon was tempted to his residence in France by the munificence of his Majesty. The Royal College, that noble institution of *the father of Letters*, had felt the influence of the public miseries; the professors, deprived of the just fruit of their labours, applied to Henry IV. that they

might be restored. The following was his answer; it shews the man: "Let my expences be retrenched; let my table be stinted in order to pay my lecturers: I would have them made content; Sully shall pay them." Sully actually did pay them; it was not upon such objects that the severe œconomy of that Minister was exercised. He knew that it was the duty of Kings to restrain the avarice of Courtiers and Financiers, and that it forms a part of their grandeur to recompense the learned, who may be enriched at such a trifling expence. (*Eloge d'Henry IV. par M. Gaillard.*)

He liberally rewarded Pierre Matthieu, his Historiographer, and took a pleasure in informing him of his principal exploits, in order that they might be transmitted to posterity.

One day, a poet, who knew the eminent

ment virtues and good-nature of the King, complained that he was taxed too heavily for the Taille, and presented a paper to Henry containing these four verses :

Ce poet n'a pas la maille :

Plaise, Sire, a ta Majesté,

Audieu de le mettre à la Taille,

De le mettre à la Charité.*

The King ordered him a gratification.
(*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

Amongst the great qualities of Henry IV. his tenderness and love for his people were particularly distinguishable. He knew no greater satisfaction than to comfort them, than to enable them to live in peace and at their ease ; it was his most ordinary topic of discourse. A dangerous fit of illness alarmed them for his life ;

* “ This poet is not worth a doit : may it please your Majesty, instead of making him pay the Taille, to place him in an alms-house.”

Sully, his Minister and friend, was by his bedside ; “ O my friend,” said the sick Monarch, “ you know whether it be death that I fear ; you have seen me seek it a thousand times in company with you, in the midst of battles ; but my people are not yet happy ; I was in hopes of completing my work ; you know what were my projects for their felicity.” (*Memoires de Sully.*)

The acclamations and joyful shouts of his people were to this good Prince the most flattering kind of incense. When at his return from the expedition in 1596, he saw the people of Paris run forth to meet their King, and press forward to testify their attachment, he enjoyed that satisfaction so natural to benevolent minds. “ I am fully recompensed,” said he to every one, “ for the toils and labours which I have undergone, and for the cares which I have taken upon me, since
“ I find

“ I find a people so grateful.” (*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

Henry sometimes used to say, “ That
 “ God, perhaps, would be so good to
 “ him in his old age, as to give him time
 “ to go twice or thrice a week to the Par-
 “ liament and the Chamber of Accounts,
 “ as the good King Louis XII. did, to la-
 “ bour at curtailling the tedious process of
 “ the law, and putting the finances in
 “ such good order, that, for the future,
 “ they could not be squandered.” And
 he added, “ These shall be the last walks
 “ I will take.” (*Tablettes Historiques des
 Rois de France.*)

Some troops which Henry had sent into
 Germany, having pillaged some houses of
 the peasants in Champagne, he said to the
 officers who had remained at Paris, “ Set
 “ off with all diligence, give orders about
 “ this affair; you shall be answerable to
 “ me

“ me for it. What ! if they ruin my people,
“ who will feed me ? Who will support
“ the expences of the State ? Who will
“ pay you your pensions, Gentlemen ?
“ As God’s alive, to take from my people,
“ is taking from myself.”

We have a prodigious number of his letters to Governors of provinces, to his Parliaments, to his Ministers, in which he makes use of these expressions; *Be careful of my people ; they are my children : God hath given them in trust to me ; I am answerable for them.* (Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.)

In 1601, Henry instituted inquiries into the conduct of the Financiers ; who, in order to ward off the blow, collected amongst themselves the sum of eight hundred thousand livres. When the good King saw the money paid in, he was vexed at the prosecution which he had set on
foot,

foot, in which the innocent had payed as much as the guilty : he said, *That this act appeared to him so odious, that he feared those poor people would never love him more.* It is astonishing how fearful he was of passing for a tyrant. (*Manuscrit in 4to.*)

Henry gave proofs of his goodness of heart even in his own household. D'Aubigny, a Gentleman of his Bed-chamber, and who, as he said himself, had been brought up at the feet of his royal Master, complained to him sometimes of having never received any favours from him. Ingratitude, certainly, was not a vice of Henry IV. but that prince, obliged to conciliate the affections of the Catholic Lords by benefits, saw himself often compelled to deprive his oldest servants of the recompences which they merited. Henry, meeting D'Aubigny one day, at the fair of St. Germain, told him that he would
give

give him his fairing. He went into a painter's shop, and, seeing his own picture there, made a present of it to D'Aubigny. The latter never once thanked him for it, and would not take the picture. He even wrote at the bottom of it these four lines :

C'est un Roi d'etrange nature,
Je ne fais quel Diable l'a fait ;
Car il recompense en peinture
Ceux qui l'ont servi en effet. *

When the King came that way again, he was going to pay for the picture. The painter informed him that D'Aubigny would not take it, but had written something at the bottom of it. The King read the verses, but only laughed at them. (*Manuscrit in 4to.*)

This same Gentleman, lying in the

* " This is a very strange King ; I know not what
" devil hath made him ; for he rewards with daubed
" canvas those who have served him substantially."

King's

King's wardrobe, said one night to La Force, who was sleeping by his side, "La Force, our Master is the most ungrateful being upon the earth." La Force, who was very drowsy, asked him what he was saying, *How deaf art thou*, cried the King, whom they had imagined to be asleep, *he says that I am the most ungrateful of mankind.* "Go to sleep, Sire," answered D'Aubigny, "we have a great deal more to say of you." The next morning, says D'Aubigny, in his History, the King did not accost me with an unpleasant countenance; but, however, he did not give me a single *sol* the more.

This frank reply of D'Aubigny to Henry IV. reminds us of another not much unlike it, which was made by the Duke de Bellegarde to that good Prince. They were both lying in the same chamber, soon after the death of Henry III. Henry IV. awaked Bellegarde three or
four

four times in the night, to propose to him to give up some of his posts, in favour of certain persons whom he named. "I am satisfied to do it, Sire," said the Grand Equerry at last; "but, in the name of God, awaken me no more." (*Dictionnaire des Hommes Illustres.*)

Segur, President of the Council, had reported to Henry several bold proposals of D'Aubigny: the question then was, whether he should be sent into exile? D'Aubigny, however, had the confidence to present himself before Henry, and to say to him, "Master, I am come to know what offence I have committed, and whether you choose to repay my services like a good Prince, or like a tyrant." *You know very well,* replied the King, *that I love you; but Segur is provoked with you; he reconciled to him.* D'Aubigny went to look for Segur, and frightened him so much by his reproaches, and

and his menaces, that Segur ran to tell the King; "Sire," said he, "Monfieur D'Aubigny is a worthier man than either of us." (*Dictionnaire cité.*)

Henry was so assured of the fidelity of D'Aubigny, that, notwithstanding that Gentleman had refused to follow him to the siege of Paris, he placed under his custody the Cardinal of Bourbon, who was acknowledged King of France by the League. In vain did Duplessis Mornay alledge the causes of dissatisfaction which D'Aubigny had against the Court. *The word of D'Aubigny discontented, replied the King, is as valuable as another man's gratitude.*

The Duke of Sully, Superintendant of the Finances, said one day to Casaubon, who came to him for his pension, *You cost the King too much, Sir; you get more than a couple of good Captains get, and you do nothing*

nothing for it. Casaubon, who was a very mild man, went to complain of this behaviour to Henry. The good King said to him, "Monsieur Casaubon, let not that
"give you any uneasiness; I have made a
"division with M. de Sully; the disagree-
"able parts of the business have all fallen
"to his share; the pleasant ones I have
"kept for myself. When you have occa-
"sion to call on him for your appoint-
"ments, come previously to me; I will
"tell you the watch-word to facilitate your
"payment." (*Manuscript in 4to.*)

Dupleffis Mornay, who hath been just mentioned, merited by his valour in war, by the wisdom of his counsels, and by his ardent zeal for the glory of Henry IV. to be the friend of that great Monarch. A gentleman, named St. Phal, who had taken offence at Dupleffis Mornay for having, as he said, shewn his letters very unseasonably, determined on revenge. He
waited

waited for him one day, as he was returning from Court, and, seeing him in the open street, asked him the meaning of his late behaviour. Duplessis having made him a proper answer, the other, without waiting till he had finished his discourse, knocked him down with a baton, and immediately mounted his horse, and retreated. Duplessis wrote to the King, to demand justice, and received from him the following answer : “ Monsieur Duplessis, “ I am exceedingly displeased at the outrage which you have received, and feel “ it both as your Sovereign and as your “ friend. With regard to the former character, I will do justice both to you and “ to myself ; did I bear only the second “ title, there is none whose sword should “ be more ready at your service, nor who “ would expose his life in your quarrel “ more cheerfully than myself. Of this “ be assured, that I will positively do my “ duty to you, as King, as master, and as “ friend.

“friend, With this true declaration I
“conclude, praying God to keep you
“under his protection.” The King then
ordered St. Phal to be prosecuted for an
assassin. His family, however, obtained
his pardon, on condition that he would
ask forgiveness of the King in presence of
the chief Lords of the Court, of his rela-
tions, and of the Sieur Duplessis, whose
forgiveness he should ask likewise. He
was without a sword when he appeared be-
fore the King, as being unworthy to wear
one after so cowardly an action; but when
Henry had granted him pardon, he or-
dered his sword to be restored to him,
saying, “That it was more honourable
“for M. Duplessis to receive satisfaction
“from one armed, than one disarmed.”
(*Journal & Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

Duplessis had been brought up in the
Protestant religion, and had served it with
his pen, after having defended it with his
sword.

sword. They used to call him, in those days, the *Pope of the Huguenots*. He had published a book intitled, *The Institution of the Eucharist*. Du Perron, Bishop of Evreux, offered to prove to him, in presence of the King, and such other persons as it might please his Majesty to nominate, that, in this book against the Mass, there were above five hundred passages misquoted, mutilated, or falsified. Accordingly, some conferences were held at Fontainebleau, in which Du Perron came off victorious. Henry made many encomiums on the wit and erudition of the Bishop of Evreux, and then, assuming a tone of railery, said to Rosny, * “*What think you of your Pope?*” “I think, Sire,” answered he in the same tone, “that he is more “a Pope than you are aware; for don’t “you see that he hath given a red hat to “M. d’Evreux?” Soon afterwards, Du Perron was actually made a Cardinal,

* Who was a Protestant.

It was said at that time, that Henry only consented to this conference, to do away the suspicions which many ill-minded persons entertained of his sincerity with respect to the Catholic religion. The Monarch was not ignorant of these suspicions. "There are three things," he used to say, "which the world will not believe, and yet they are true and certain; that the Queen of England * died a maid; that the Archduke is a great General; and that the King of France is a very good Catholic." (*Journal de l'Etoile.*)

It was in his friendship for Sully, that Henry chiefly displayed the frankness, and the candour of his soul. "My friend," said this good Prince one day writing to his Minister, "come and see me; this morning something hath been passing in my breast, which I am desirous of communicating to you."

* Elizabeth.

Another

Another time he wrote thus to him from Fontainebleau : “ Some domestic
“ uneasiness hath happened to me, which
“ causes me more chagrin than I have ever
“ yet experienced. I would give a good
“ deal that you were here ; for you are
“ the only person to whom I open my
“ heart, and from whose counsels I receive
“ consolation.”

Henry heard that one of Sully's children was sick ; he immediately sent him his first physician, and wrote to him, “ You know
“ that my affection for you is not so slight
“ as to hinder me from going myself, were
“ my presence necessary.”

The whole life of Henry IV. is a most satisfactory picture of the intimate friendship which subsisted between him and the Duke of Sully. All his letters to that Minister are impressed with this character.

One

One sees there, that this great Monarch had so lively an affection for Sully, that it frequently extended itself even to minute cares, and to the most marked attention to that Minister. In 1601, the King wrote to him in these terms. "You will do me a pleasure by coming to lie this night at Puyzeaux; you need not bring any thing with you, as I have given orders to have an apartment prepared for you, to which I have sent my hunting bed, and commanded Coquet to provide a supper for you, and your breakfast in the morning; for I will not detain you longer. Adieu, my beloved friend."
(*Encomies Royales.*)

One day when Sully, who was Superintendant of the Finances, came to present the new year's gifts to the King, he found him still in bed with the Queen. The King desired him to come in, and shew the new year's gifts. They consisted of

of gold and silver medals for their Majesties, and for the Queen's Ladies and Maids of Honour. *Rosny*, (for so the King called him) *will you give them their new year's gifts without making them come and kiss you?* "Surely, Sire," answered Sully, "since you have commanded them to do it, I have no need of entreating them." *Come now, Rosny, you shall tell me the truth: which of them do you kiss with most pleasure, and think to be the handsomest?* "Faith, Sire," replied the Superintendent, "I cannot tell; I have other things to think of besides love, and judging between one beauty and another. I kiss them as I would reliques, when presenting my offering." *Hey-dey*, said Henry laughing, *what a prodigal Financier is Rosny, to make such rich presents out of his master's goods, and all for a kiss!* Then, when those before whom he did not choose to say every thing, had been dismissed, he gently jogged the
H Queen,

Queen, who was asleep, or pretended to be so, because she was somewhat vexed :
“Awake, you sleepy creature,” said he,
“and leave off grumbling. You ima-
“gine that Rosny favours me in the little
“squabbles which you and I have toge-
“ther. You would be quite of a diffe-
“rent opinion, were you to know what
“great liberties he takes in telling me
“truths ; for which, although I put my-
“self in a passion, I do not bear him any
“ill-will. On the contrary, I should think
“he did not love me, if he were not to
“represent to me what he considers as
“being for my own personal glory, the
“reformation of my kingdom, and the
“comfort of my people. For, you see,
“my dear, there are no dispositions so
“upright which would not stumble some-
“times, if they were not pulled up when
“they trip, by the admonitions of their
“loyal servants, or their intimate and pru-
“dent friends.” (*Memoires de Sully.*)

Henry

Henry being in his chamber with a lady with whom he was in love, Sully entered the anti-chamber, and was passing on, when he was told that that could not be. He suspected immediately that some intrigue was going forward, which they wished to conceal from him. The desire of knowing what it was, prompted him to take his station at a window, which looked towards the little stair-case leading from the King's closet. He saw a lady dressed in green come out, whose face he was unacquainted with; a moment after, the King came to him, and said, *How is it with thee, Sully?* The Duke made answer; "Sire, I am always your Majesty's
"very humble servant; but, Sire," continued the Duke, seeing the King a little agitated, "your Majesty's health seems to
"have undergone some alteration." *It is because,* said the King, *I have had a fever all the morning, but it hath left me now.*
"True, Sire," replied the Duke, "I

“saw it go away; it was all green.”
Ventre-saint-gris, rejoined the King, *there is no deceiving you; you see too clearly.*
(Menagiana.)

It happened much about the same time, that this Prince went to look for Sully at the arsenal, in order to have some particular conversation with him. That Minister did not receive the confidence thus reposed in him, without making an earnest remonstrance to Henry, concerning what he deemed to be inimical to the glory of his royal Master. That Monarch, whose passions were strong, at first gave a very ill reception to those remonstrances of his confident. He even quitted him abruptly, saying aloud, “I cannot endure
“this man any longer; he does nothing
“but contradict and find fault with all
“my wishes and intentions; but, by the
“Lord, I will be obeyed; I will not see
“him again this fortnight.” But the
next

next day, at seven o'clock in the morning, his Majesty went to the arsenal, with five or six persons in the coach with him. He went up to Sully's apartment, without suffering any one to give him notice, and rapped at his closet-door. Sully, who had said, *Who is there?* was not a little surprized to hear answer made, *It is the King*, whom he knew immediately by the sound of his voice; when the door was opened, *Well, what are you doing here, my friend?* said the King, entering the closet with Roquelaure, and some other courtiers. Sully answered, "that he was writing Letters, and preparing business for his Secretaries." *And how long have you been at that work?* "Since three o'clock this morning," answered Sully. *Well, Roquelaure*, cried Henry, turning to him, *how much would you take to lead such a life?* The King then made all his attendants leave the room, and began to discourse with Sully; but, perceiving that

he spoke coldly to him, "So, so, you are
"on the reserve," said he, smiling, and
tapping him on the cheek, "you are an-
"gry, are you, on account of what pas-
"sed yesterday? For my part, I have
"forgot it; so let us live together on our
"usual terms of freedom. For I know
"your temper well; had you acted other-
"wise, it would have been a sign that you
"no longer took any interest in my affairs.
"Though I am sometimes out of hu-
"mour," added he, with his natural can-
dour, "I wish you to bear with it; for I
"do not therefore love you the less: on
"the contrary, the moment you cease to
"contradict me in matters which I know
"are not to your liking, I shall think
"that you have no longer any affection
"for me." After a long conversation,
the King retired; as he quitted Sully, he
embraced him, and said to those who were
standing by, "There are fools enough,
"who imagine that when I put myself in
"a passion

“ a passion with Monsieur de Sully, it is
 “ in good earnest, and for a long time:
 “ now it is quite the contrary; for when
 “ I afterwards reflect that he remonstrates
 “ with me, or contradicts me, only for
 “ my own honour, my own grandeur,
 “ and the prosperity of my affairs, and
 “ never for his private interest, I love him
 “ the better for it, and am impatient to
 “ tell him so.” (*Memoires de Sully.*)

“ There is nothing,” said Sully, “ from
 “ which it is more difficult to defend one’s
 “ self, than from a calumny fabricated by
 “ a courtier.” He experienced this in the
 year 1605. Several Lords of the Court,
 who desired nothing so much as the de-
 struction of a man whom they found ever
 in opposition to their wishes, because those
 wishes were seldom compatible with the
 interests of the people, had prepared eve-
 ry thing for his ruin. Libels, anonymous
 letters, secret and artful intimations, were

all put in practice. Henry, for the first time, entertained suspicions of Sully, and they seemed allowable in a Prince who had experienced so much ingratitude from mankind; nevertheless, finding that nothing which had been alledged against the Minister was verified, he began to make reflections. He was passionate; but he was good, and readily returned to himself. He sent several persons to Sully, to prevail on him to open his heart; but Sully was determined to be silent until the King himself should speak to him. He considered himself as having cause to complain of that Prince, who at last, unable to endure this state of coldness and uncertainty, desired an explanation. Being at Fontainebleau, as Sully was taking leave of him, the King said, "Come hither, have you nothing to say to me?" No, answered Sully. "Oh! then I have to you," replied that Prince. Immediately turning aside with him into one of the alleys of
the

the park, and ordering two Swiss to be posted at the entrance of the place where they were, the King began by embracing Sully twice; he then said to him, "My
" friend, I could no longer endure (after
" three-and-twenty years experience and
" knowledge of the affection and sincerity
" of both one and the other of us) the
" coldnesses, constraints, and dissimula-
" tions which we have observed for this
" month past; for, to tell you the truth,
" if I have not acquainted you with all
" my secret thoughts, as I used to do, I
" believe that you have likewise concealed
" many of your's from me. Such pro-
" ceedings would be as prejudicial to you
" as to me, and might go on augmenting
" daily, by the malice and cunning of
" those who are as envious of my gran-
" deur, as they are of the favour which
" you enjoy with me. For this reason, I
" have resolved to inform you of all the
" fine stories which have been told me con-

cerning you, the artifices which have
been made use of to embroil you with
me, and the effects which they produced
upon my heart ; requesting you to do
the same, without fearing that I should
take offence at any of those freedoms
you may use. For it is my wish that
we leave this place, both of us, with
hearts free from all suspicion, and satisfied
with each other. And now, as I
am willing to offer you my heart, I beseech
you not to disguise from me any
thing that may be in your's." After
this conversation, equally necessary to both,
and in which Sully fully justified himself,
the King seemed sincerely sorry at having
harboured any doubts of the attachment
of his most faithful servant. Sully, penetrated
to the bottom of his heart with the noble
repentance of his royal Master, was going
to throw himself at his feet, and give him
that submissive mark of respect which is
due from a subject to his Sovereign.

reign. *Ab! do it not,* said Henry, *you are a man of worth; we are observed; they would imagine that I was pardoning you.* The King immediately left the alley, holding Sully by the hand, and asked all the courtiers what o'clock it was. They answered, that it was one in the afternoon, and that he had been a long time away. "I perceive how it is," said Henry, "there are some who found that conversation more tedious than I did. To comfort you, however, I would have you all know, that I love Rosny better than ever; and you, my friend," added he, turning about to Sully, "continue to love, and serve me as you have always done." (*Memoires de Sully.*)

Two modern orators have preserved the following sublime trait of the life of Henry IV. in the eulogiums which they have made on that great King; and we hope to gratify those readers who love to compare

compare and judge, by setting before their eyes these two interesting extracts: A calumny, *fabricated by a courtier*, to use Sully's own expressions, had sapped the foundations of that respectable amity which connected with Henry IV. Sully had been represented as dangerous, as ready to arm himself against his Master with the favours heaped upon him by his friend; examples had been quoted of the many ungrateful and perfidious persons with whom those unhappy times abounded; the intimations were so numerous, so circumstantial; all the facts had been collected with so much art, that they had staggered the mind of Henry. Already his heart becomes close and estranged; Sully perceives the progress of the calumny, can stop it by a single word, which yet he disdains to utter. Henry waits for this word, but does not ask for it; that sweet familiarity, that amiable pleasantry, that freedom, that confidence, had fled
from

from their conversations: Henry was nothing more than polite, Sully nothing more than respectful; the Minister was not dismissed, but the Friend was disgraced. How difficult and severe it is to cease to love! Henry casts from time to time upon the object of his affection looks of tenderness and regret; and if he sees in his countenance any trace of sorrow, if he thinks that he recognizes, by any symptoms, his faithful Sully, his heart is unable to contain itself, his arms fly open, he hastens to fall upon the neck of his friend. A false shame, some remains of distrust, and the proud silence of Sully, still restrain him. At length he sinks under it: "Sully," saith he to that Minister, "have you nothing to say to me?" "What! Sully hath nothing more to say?" "Well then, it is my business to speak." He then discovers to him his whole soul, with all the conflicts which have agitated it; all the griefs which have afflicted it.

"Inhuman!"]

“Inhuman! How could you leave your
“friend in despair at believing you faith-
“less?” Sully, hurt at this imputation,
the only one which could have been thrown
on him, is going to fall at Henry’s feet—
“What is this, Sully?” said the King;
“your enemies are looking at you; they
“imagine that I am pardoning you; do
“not give them the satisfaction of think-
“ing that you were culpable.” After this
their embraces are their only language;
they sprinkled each other’s bosoms with
those tears which are so inexpressibly de-
lightful. Two hearts, that have thus
wept together, can never more be dis-
united from each other. (*Eloge d’Henri
IV. par M. Gaillard.*)

It may well be said, that a lie can never
borrow the features of truth; it may,
however, bear a strong resemblance to it,
otherwise it could not prove so formidable.
Henry himself, as difficult to be deceived
as

as vanquished, even Henry is staggered. Suspicion glides into his heart; suspicion, that wound of the soul, which poisons every thing, which exaggerates every thing, the scar of which remains for ever painful, and which so easily bursts open, after it hath been closed. Henry fears that he hath been deceived in his choice and in his friendship; he endures, he still does business with his Minister; but he converses no longer with his friend. Sully perceives it, and is silent; the Court observes what passes, and waits the event. In some faces may be seen the smile of ambitious hope, in others the insolent joy of self-applauding villainy; in all, curiosity and inquietude. The countenance of Sully never alters; his dismissal, which his enemies would have termed his disgrace, and which would have been the disgrace of France, seems certain, and he takes no measures to prevent it. But Henry can no longer resist the agitation in his own breast; royal Majesty breaks the silence,

lence, though virtue would still preserve it. It is not a judge who interrogates, it is a friend who unbosoms himself. What a conversation must that be between these two great souls, which malice would have estranged, which return to each other as by an irresistible bias, and both of which acknowledge their original sentiments. Henry IV. had doubted of Sully; but Sully had never entertained a doubt of his royal Master. Unconcern, and, perhaps, the pride of an unsullied heart, had closed up his lips; but gratitude precipitates him at the feet of his Sovereign, in sight of the anxious courtiers. But this noble transport may resemble the humiliation of a criminal. Henry dreads lest a second outrage should be offered to innocence: *Rise, cries he, rise; they will imagine that I am pardoning you.* (Eloge d'Henri IV. par M. de la Harpe.)

History records a circumstance, which
proves,

proves, that this Prince was apprehensive of doing something that might diminish the high esteem which Sully entertained for him. At the siege of Laon, in 1595, as Henry inspected every thing in person, he had fatigued himself so much upon a very rough piece of ground, that there were several contusions on his feet, which, however, did not hinder him from continuing his work, till all the sores opening, his two feet were soon nothing else than one great sore, which obliged him to go to bed, and have them dressed. (He had, till then, slept upon two mattresses laid upon the ground.) The Duke of Sully came to see him, and Henry had the dressings taken off in his presence, "in order," said he, "that that Minister may know that I am not acting the finical man without reason." (*Memoires de Sully.*)

The President Jeannin, who, as well
as

as Sully, was one of the Ministers of Henry IV. enjoyed equally with the Duke the confidence of his royal Master, who considered him as a steady man, and one whose fidelity was inviolable. An important affair had been debated in the Council, and the resolution determined on had transpired. Henry complained of this to his Ministers, who seemed desirous of throwing the blame upon Jeannin; the King immediately taking him by the hand, said, *I answer for this good man; let the rest of you examine yourselves.*

This Prince sometimes reproached himself with not having done enough for Jeannin, saying, "That he gilt several of his subjects, in order to hide their malice; but that as for the President Jeannin, he had been always receiving benefit from him, without doing him any in return."

This

This Minister possessed as much frankness as Sully, but, perhaps, more mildness and urbanity. This we may easily gather from that ingenious stroke of Henry, related in the Dictionary already often quoted, under the article *Jeannin*. The King had a mind to shew, in a moment, the different tempers of his Ministers to a foreign Ambassador. He sent for them, one after another, and said to them; *Here is a beam that threatens to fall*. Villeroy, without even looking up at it, advised the King to have it changed immediately. Jeannin, after surveying it attentively, confessed that he did not perceive any fault in it; but that, to prevent accidents, it ought to be examined by persons skilled in such matters. Sully answered abruptly, "Sire, who is it that could have put you in this hurry? the beam will last longer than either you or I."

Henry

Henry always shewed great intrepidity and generosity towards his enemies, even to those who, stimulated by a fanatic zeal, wished to take away his life. The historian Le Grain records an adventure which happened to this Monarch with one Captain Michau, who had pretended to desert from the Spanish service, and go over to that of Henry, in order to find an opportunity of assassinating him. One day, says that historian, as Henry was hunting in the forest of Ailas, he perceives Captain Michau at his heels, well mounted, and with a couple of pistols cocked and primed: the King was alone, no assistance was at hand, as it is the custom of hunters to be scattered from one another. Henry, seeing Michau approach, said, in a bold and determined manner, *Captain Michau alight; I want to try whether your horse be as good a one as you say he is.* Michau obeyed; the King mounted his horse, and, taking the two pistols, said, *Hast thou*

thou a mind to kill any one? I have been told that thou hadst a design to kill me ; but it is in my power to kill thee, if I chose. As he said this, he fired the two pistols into the air, and ordered Michau to follow him. The Captain, after many excuses, took his leave in two days after, and never again made his appearance. (Décade d'Henri le Grand.)

At the siege of Effans in Guyenne, a soldier, who was on the ramparts, knew Henry by the white scarf which he wore, and took aim at him, saying, *Here goes at the Bearnois, it will soon be all over with him.* Unluckily for himself he missed his aim. The town was carried by assault. The besiegers found him out, and he was hanged incontinently. The gibbet fell, and the soldier would have been saved, if a private in the King's army had not stabbed him with a poignard. Henry heard of this action, and was so vexed at it, that
he

he discharged the person who had given the stroke, saying, *That it was inhuman to snatch away the life of a poor wretch whom accident had saved from the noose.* (Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.)

This Prince was urged to treat with severity some places belonging to the League, which he had reduced by force. He contented himself with saying, "The satisfaction derived from revenge endures but for a moment; but that which is the offspring of clemency is eternal." (*Dictionnaire des Hommes Illustres.*)

The Duke of Mayenne, who was head of the League, and who had presumed to dispute the Crown with Henry IV. solicited his pardon, and obtained it. It was during the King's retirement at Monceaux, in 1596, that the treaty solicited by that Duke was concluded. The first two or three days which his Majesty spent at Amiens,

Amiens, the Duke had sent a person, named d'Estienne, to ask him where it would be agreeable to him that the Duke should come and pay his respects. The King appointed Monceaux, in order to accommodate the Duke, who was not able to take so long a journey as that from Amiens to Soissons, where he resided. The Duke of Mayenne was introduced to the King, while his Majesty was walking in the star of the Park, attended only by Sully. The Duke put one knee to the ground, and joined to his declaration of fidelity his thanks to his Majesty, *for having delivered him, he said, from the arrogance of Spain, and the cunning of Italy.* Henry, who had advanced to meet him, when he saw him approach, embraced him three times, made him rise instantaneously, embraced him afresh with that goodness which never held out against repentance; then taking him by the hand, he walked with him in the Park, where he discoursed to him familiarly upon the
embellishments

embellishments he was making. The King walked at such a quick pace, that the Duke of Mayenne, equally troubled with his sciatica, his fat, and the great heat he was in, dragged his thigh with much difficulty, and suffered cruel pain, without once daring to mention it. The King perceived it, seeing the Duke red in the face, and in violent perspiration; and said to Sully in a whisper, "If I walk
"with this fat man here any longer, it
"will be an easy way of being revenged
"for all the mischiefs he hath done us.
"Tell truth, cousin," continued he, addressing the Duke of Mayenne, "do I
"not walk a little too fast for you?" The Duke made answer, *that he was almost stifled, and that had his Majesty held it on but for a little while longer, he would have killed him without intending it.* "By the
"Lord, cousin," replied the King laughing, as he embraced him and clapped him on the shoulder, "this is all the vengeance
"geance

“geance I shall ever take on you.” The Duke of Mayenne, who was affected in a lively manner by this frank behaviour of the King, attempted a second time to kneel and kiss the hand of his Majesty, and swore that he would ever after serve him even against his own children. “I believe it,” replied Henry; “and that you may be able to love me and serve me the longer, go rest yourself in the castle, and take some refreshment, for you stand in great need of it. I will go and order you a couple of bottles of the wine of Arbois; for I know very well that you have no dislike to it. Here is Rosny; he shall accompany you, and do the honours of the house, and conduct you to your chamber; he is one of the oldest servants I have, and one of those who have received the most pleasure in seeing that you are inclined to love and serve me with sincerity.” (*Memoires de Sully.*)

In the month of July which followed the King's reconciliation with the Duke of Mayenne, the Pope sent to France, in quality of Legate, the Cardinal Alexander de Medicis; to whom the King ordered the highest honours to be paid. When he heard of his arrival at Chartres, he determined to pay him a visit; for this purpose he took post, and brought with him the Duke of Mayenne, saying to him, "Let us go, cousin, and see the Legate; for you have as much need as I of an absolution." This Cardinal had much merit, and had had a considerable share in the absolution which the King obtained from the Sovereign Pontiff. (*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

Some person wishing to prevail on this benignant Prince to punish the author of a bitter satire against him, intitled, *The Island of Hermaphrodites*: "I could not take it upon my conscience," said he,
"to

“to trouble a man for telling the truth.”
(Pierre Matthieu.)

When the Parliament, which had held its Sessions at Tours, during the civil disturbances of the League, came to pay homage to the King: “Sirs,” said he, “I beseech you to cherish no remembrance of what hath passed; I have forgotten and forgiven the injuries done to myself, I exhort you to bury in oblivion those which you have received.”

The Duke of Bouillon, when his Majesty consented to his marriage with the heiress of Sedan, had engaged to furnish him with a certain number of troops; but he not only neglected to fulfil his engagement, but daily gave the King new causes of discontent. At length the Duchess died, and the Duke dispatched a letter to his Majesty, in which he informed him, that Madame de Bouillon had made

a will, by which she bequeathed to her husband the principality of Sedan, and all her fortune, and put them under the protection of the King of France; as there was every reason to believe that the donation would be disputed by the collateral relations: *That is to say*, exclaimed the King, *That M. de Bouillon is in great need of my assistance. Is not this acting like a man of honour?*" (Memoires de Sully.)

When the Admiral de Villars, who had held out many places against the King, appeared at Court, Henry seemed to have forgotten all the past, by the favourable reception which he gave him. That Lord having thrown himself at the feet of his royal Master, *Monsieur Admiral*, said Henry, embracing him, and mortified at that attitude, *such submission is due to God alone.* (Idem.)

Notice having been given to Henry, that the Prince of Joinville, a giddy and
volatile

volatile young man, was forming intrigues in Spain by means of the Count de Chamnite, one of the Ministers of that Court, his Majesty gave orders that he should be arrested. When he found himself a prisoner, he said, that he was ready to make a full discovery, provided it were to the King in person, and the Duke of Sully present. Joinville was brought before them, and declared every thing they wished to know. Henry thoroughly understood the character of this young Prince, and, treating him as he deserved, sent for the Duchess of Guise his mother, and for the Duke of Guise his brother, to whom he said in his closet, “ Here is the prodigal son in person; he hath got some
“ foolish notions in his head; I treat him
“ like a child, and pardon him for your
“ sakes, and that of M. de Rosny, who
“ hath interceded for him in the most earnest
“ manner; but it is on condition that
“ you lecture him all three; and that you,

“nephew,” said he, turning to the Duke of Guise, “will be answerable for him in future. I give him in charge to you, that you may make him wise, if it be possible. (*Idem.*)

John Duret was physician to Charles of Bourbon, Cardinal of Vendôme, the Leader of the Third Party. This physician said one day to the Cardinal, speaking of Henry IV. that he should be made to swallow *Cæsar's pills*; (three-and-twenty strokes of the dagger which Cæsar received in the Senate) this was repeated to the King by Du Perron. That Monarch ever after entertained an excessive hatred to Duret, yet without doing him any mischief. Mary of Medicis, when sick, reposed great confidence in this physician, on account of his great reputation. Duret having, through her means, petitioned the King for the place of First Physician to his Majesty, vacant by the death of M. de

de Riviere, that Princee said to those who were mentioning the subject, *Tell Duret to be satisfied that I suffer him to live, and that I am well apprized of the mischief which he intended for me long ago.* (Manuscript in 4to.)

He behaved with severity to the Marechal de Biron, who had conspired against him, and refused to grant him a pardon; but it was principally the Marechal's own obstinacy that ruined him. He was, says Le Laboureur, of a proud and haughty spirit, that was almost ungovernable, took no pleasure but in things that were difficult and nearly impossible, and was envious of the greatness of others. At the battle of Fontaine Françoise, the King rescued the Marechal de Biron from the very midst of the Arquebusses. One of his Majesty's servants said, that he had hazarded too much, in throwing himself in the midst of the enemy. "That is

“true,” answered Henry, “but if I do
“not so, and neglect to push forward, the
“Marechal de Biron will take advantage of
“it all his life.” (*Pierre Matthieu.*)

When suspicions were first intimated to Henry concerning Biron's connections with the enemies of the State, he was unwilling to give credit to them. Some papers, however, of the utmost importance, having been put into his hands, that Prince, who so little merited to be deceived, soon beheld all the horror of the plot which was hatching against him. Henry, concealing his knowledge of these particulars, wrote to the Marechal, who was in Burgundy, to come up to Court. Biron made several excuses to put off the journey; at length go he must. He found the King at Fontainebleau. As soon as the Prince perceived him, he advanced hastily to meet him, and embraced him, saying, *Cousin, you have done well in coming,*
for

for otherwise I should have gone to look for you. The Marechal abounded in apologies, but the King, without manifesting the slightest discontent, began to converse with him with his usual familiarity. He took him by the hand, walked out with him into the gardens, explained to him his different projects, as to a friend and an equal. This good Prince was in hopes that Biron, from the bare presence of a Sovereign by whom he was beloved, and whom he was plotting to betray, would feel rekindled in his breast those sentiments of zeal, fidelity, and obedience, with which the meanest Frenchman is animated for his King. But when Henry came to touch upon the grand business in agitation, Biron, not imagining that the King knew as much as he said he did, was not satisfied with a modest denial of the charge; he told the King that, having nothing to reproach himself with, he stood in no need of forgiveness; that he was not come

to justify himself, but to learn the names of his accusers; and that, if justice was not done him, he should know how to obtain it himself. The King, far from approving the insolence of such discourse, even though the man who uttered it had been innocent, yet continued to address him with the same mildness. He had several other such conferences with the Marechal, still hoping to bring him to a confession, which would leave Henry room to exercise his clemency towards that unhappy Lord, once his friend. In fine, the King, disgusted one day by his rhodomontades and his obstinacy, quitted him, with these expressions, *Well, we must endeavour to learn the truth elsewhere. Adieu, Baron de Biron.* These words were as a flash of lightning, the fore-runner of the thunderbolt which was to crush him; the King thus degrading him from the many eminent dignities with which he had been invested. The same day, the Count of Soissons

Soissons exhorted him to make a confession of the truth, and concluded his remonstrance with this sentence of the wise man, *The King's anger is the messenger of death.* (Histoire d'Henri IV. par Prefixe.)

After dinner, says Septenaire, Biron went to look for the King, who was taking a turn in his great hall; shewing Biron his statue in *relievo*, as if triumphing and surrounded by victories, he said to him, *Well, cousin, if the King of Spain had seen me thus, what would he have said?* The other answered carelessly, *Sire, he would not fear you;* which expressions were taken notice of by all the courtiers present. The King cast a severe glance at him, which he perceived; then, suddenly giving a new dress to what he had uttered, he added, *I mean, Sire, as to this statue, but not as to this person.* (Matthieu.)

Henry assembled his Council, and having laid upon the table the different papers
relative

relative to the conspiracy, expressed himself as follows with respect to the Marechal ; “ I wish not to ruin this man ; but
“ he seems bent upon his own destruction ;
“ however, let me not lose him, if you
“ deem him not deserving of death ; I
“ would once more tell him, that if he
“ comes before a court of justice, he must
“ expect no favour whatsoever from me.”
The King’s Ministers took strict cognizance of every part of the process. They wished to second the King’s good intentions towards Biron ; but, being called upon to give their opinions according to conscience and the laws, there was no manner of hesitation amongst them ; they pronounced unanimously that the culprit merited death. The King immediately took his resolution in consequence of this terrible response. Biron was arrested ; and, his trial being concluded, he was beheaded upon a scaffold erected in one of the courts of the Bastile. (*Dictionnaire cité.*)

Previous

Previous to his being arrested, some one said to Henry one day, that the Marechal de Biron played very well at tennis : the King, who had already discovered the conspiracy, made answer ; “ It is true, he
“ plays well, but he makes his matches
“ very ill.” (*Tablettes Historiques des
Rois de France.*)

Henry, speaking of Biron, often repeated these expressions ; “ His obstinacy
“ hath ruined him ; had he confessed the
“ truth of a circumstance of which I had
“ proof under his hand, he would not be
“ where he is. I would have given two
“ hundred thousand crowns, that he had
“ left room for me to pardon him. He
“ hath done me good service ; but I have
“ saved his life three times.” (*Memoires
de Sully.*)

Henry granted the forfeited property of the Marechal to his brother ; and as several Magistrates represented to him that]
such

such grants were contrary to custom, and that too much care could not be taken to deter men from such attempts as had given rise to that confiscation: "This is very good reasoning," answered Henry; "but I hope that the death of the guilty Marechal will serve for a lesson to his brother, and that my kindness will attach him to me." (*Idem.*)

Henry, who knew the full value of courage, had a particular esteem for brave men. He caused to be inrolled among his body guards a soldier, who had given him some hard knocks upon an important occasion: this intrepid fellow was ever present to his memory. He shewed him one day to the Marechal d'Estrees, and said with an air of complacency, *Here is the soldier who wounded me at the battle of Aumale.* (*Dictionnaire des Hommes Illustres.*)

When eight Gentlemen of Perigord,
whose

whose faces were much marked with the wounds which they had received in his service, were introduced to him; "I am
"delighted to see them," said Henry;
"but I would much rather see those who
"put them into this condition."

Henry was particularly fond of the Nobility. He had seen them perform such great exploits during the war, that he was never tired repeating, that with them nothing was impossible to him. A Spanish Ambassador one day was testifying his surprise, at seeing Henry encompassed and crowded by such a multitude of Gentlemen. *Had you seen me in a day of battle,* replied the Monarch quickly, *they then thronged about me a great deal more.*

Whenever this Prince gave his word, he generally added, *On the Faith of a Gentleman.* (Memoires de Sully.)

We are all Gentlemen, he would sometimes say before the Princes of the blood.

One

One day, Henry observing with the son of La Varenne, a man of whom he had no knowledge, asked the father of what condition the man was. *Sire*, answered La Varenne, *he is a Gentleman whom I have placed about my son.* "How!" said Henry, "placing your son about a Gentleman, I can very well comprehend; but, placing a Gentleman about your son, is what I cannot comprehend." This La Varenne, whom the King had made his Cloak-bearer, afterwards a Counsellor of State, and Comptroller-General of the Posts, had been, in his early days, a kitchen boy to Madame Catherine, the King's sister. That Princess accordingly said, *that La Varenne had got more by carrying her brother's pullets, * than by larding her's.* (D'Aubigné.)

Henry IV. loved to render justice, and was not covetous of the eulogiums he

* *Poulets*, the word in the original likewise signifies *Love-letters*.

merited.

merited. While he was besieging Dreux, he sent word to the Duke of Sully, that the army of the Duke of Mayenne, which had formed a junction with the Spaniards, was advancing to give him battle. The letter concluded with these words: "I
" conjure you, then, to come, and bring
" with you whatever you can, especially
" your own company, and the two com-
" panies of horse arquebusiers of Badet
" and of James, which I left with you;
" for I know them, and would wish to
" make use of them." (*Memoires de Sully.*)

One day, presenting the Marechal de Biron to Cardinal Aldobrandin, he spoke these words so flattering to Biron; "My
" Lord Cardinal; this is Marechal de
" Biron, whom I am happy to present
" both to my friends and my enemies."

Henry III. had given Crillon the surname of *Brave*; Henry IV. never called him

him any thing but *Brave des braves*. This illustrious Captain being in the King's closet, where his Majesty was conversing with several Lords and foreign Ministers, the discourse turned upon the praises of great warriors. *Gentlemen*, said the King, laying his hand on Crillon's shoulder, *here is the first warrior in the world*. "Sire," replied Crillon hastily, with that tone which was peculiar to him, "you have told a falsehood; it is you who are the first, I am only the second." (*Vie du brave Crillon*.)

This peculiar mode of expressing himself was more pleasing to the King, than the most studied eulogiums. Crillon joined to his courage and frankness a great degree of disinterestedness: he saw, without complaining, rebellious subjects in the enjoyment of those honours and dignities which he himself had merited. His zeal for his royal Master never cooled; that Prince,

Prince, therefore, in order to justify himself for having done nothing in his favour, often said; *I was sure of the brave Crillon; and had to gain over all those who persecuted me.* (Idem.)

A courtier's retreat is generally followed by the most complete oblivion: it was reserved for the brave Crillon to form an exception to this rule. Henry not only preserved for him a steady esteem and friendship, but even made several efforts to recall him, by writing to him the most pressing letters. "Brave Crillon," remarks this Prince to him, "I am heartily rejoiced at this opportunity of assuring you more and more of the continuation of my friendship, and request that you will set a value on it, and come and see me as soon as you can; for I assure you that you will find more satisfaction near me, than in the place where you may be at present. Believe this,

“ this, I intreat you. *Adieu, brave Crillon.*”

His wounds prevented his returning to Court. The King, who was ignorant of his situation, was impatient for his arrival; and, to hasten his departure from Avignon, wrote to him in these terms : “ Brave Crillon, you have forgot your Master and your friends ; I wish you would not—It is a long time since your coming was announced ; but I will believe nothing until I see you, and embrace you. *Adieu, brave Crillon.*” (*Vie du brave Crillon.*)

This Prince, speaking of Lefdiguieres, said, “ I wish I had as many Lefdiguieres as there are grains in a pomegranate. Lefdiguieres is a creature of my own ; he never had any other Master than myself ; he first ate brown bread, as I did, and now eats white.” (*Pierre Mathieu.*)

The

The Pope's Nuncio asked Henry, how many times he had made war? "All my life," answered that great Monarch; "and my armies never had any other General than myself." (*Folard, Commentaires sur Polybe.*)

There is a pleasure in following great men, and particularly such a man as Henry IV. even into their domestic scenes. We like to survey him in his *disfhabille*, to listen to his most familiar conversations. One day, in the summer of 1601, this Prince had been at the chace very early, and entered the Louvre in a temper of mind, which his good health and the prosperous situation of his affairs rendered still more gay; he went up in the grand hall holding some partridges which he had taken. Perceiving Coquet, one of the *Mâitres d'Hotel*, he cried out to him, "Coquet, Coquet, you need not complain about a dinner for Roquelaure, " *Termes,*

“Termes, Fontenac, Rambures, and me,
“for we bring wherewithal to treat our-
“selves; but go directly and get ready
“the spit, and, reserving their part, see
“that there be eight for my wife and me.
“Bonneval here shall bring her share
“from me, and shall tell her that I am
“going to drink her health. But I will
“have those kept for me that are a little
“pinched by the hawk; for there are
“three very fat ones which I took from
“them, and which they had touched but
“little.” As this Prince was making the
division, La Cliele and Parfait, two of his
officers, came up; the latter carried a
very large gilt basin, covered with a nap-
kin: he cried out twice, *Sire, kneel and*
reverence me; for I have got here a great
number of them, and very good ones too.
“Parfait is in high spirits,” said the
King; “this will give him another inch
“of fat upon the ribs; I perceive that he
“hath brought me some good melons;
“I am

“ I am glad of it, for I will eat my fill of
“ them to-day ; they never do me any
“ harm, when they are right good, and
“ when I eat them with a great appetite,
“ and before meat, as the physicians or-
“ der me. But you four shall have share ;
“ so don’t go after the partridges, until
“ you have first had your melons ; I will
“ give them to you, after I have kept my
“ wife’s share and my own, and some to
“ give away to those whom I promised
“ them to.” As he entered his apartment,
he saw Fourcy, Beringhen, and La Font,
come in ; the last had a large packet
wrapped up. “ La Font,” says Henry,
“ are you bringing me already some ra-
“ goût for my dinner ?” *Yes, Sire, an-*
swered Beringhen ; but these are hollow vi-
ands, that are only good to regale the sight.
“ That is not what I want,” replied his
Majesty, “ for I am dying of hunger,
“ and wish to dine before I do any thing
“ else. But yet, La Font, what is that ?”

Sire,

Sire, says Fourcy, *these are patterns of different kinds of stuffs, carpets, and tapestry, which some of your best manufacturers are attempting to make.* The King replied, "This will be a good thing after dinner, to shew to my wife; and this puts me in mind of a person with whom I do not always agree in every particular, especially when the question turns upon what you know he calls *bawbles and trifles.*" He often tells me, that nothing appears in his eyes fine or well wrought, which costs double its real value; and that I ought to think the same of all merchandize that is extravagantly dear. I am not ignorant why or wherefore he says this; but I do not let him see it: we must hear him speak, for he is not a man that wastes words. Fourcy send for him with all speed, or rather let one of my coaches, or your own, be dispatched for him." This was the Duke of Sully, who was sent for to the house

house of Madame de Guise, where he dined. Being come immediately to the Louvre, when Henry saw him enter the apartment, where he was still at table, he said to him, "Is it possible that you have not come from the arsenal?" *It is true, Sire,* answered Sully, *I have been dining with Madam de Guise.* "That family," replied the King, "is related to you, and bears a strong affection to you, at which I much rejoice; for I am persuaded, that as long as they are advised by you, which they tell me they are resolved to be, they will never do any thing to hurt either my person or my kingdom." *Sire,* said Sully, *your Majesty says this in so handsome a manner, that I plainly see you are in a good humour, and better satisfied with me than you have been for this fortnight past.* "What! you still remember that," interrupted the good Prince: "Now it is quite otherwise with me. Don't you know that our petty

“ piques ought never to last above four-
“ and-twenty hours? I know that that
“ did not hinder you, the very next day
“ after I quarrelled with you, from strik-
“ ing out something beneficial for my
“ finances. I have not found myself in
“ such good spirits,” continued Henry
with the same gaiety, “ for above these
“ three months ; for I mounted my horse
“ without assistance and without a horse-
“ block. I have had an excellent day’s
“ sport. My hawks flew so well, my
“ grey-hounds ran so well, that those
“ caught abundance of partridges, and
“ these three great leverets. I have eaten
“ excellent melons, and exceeding good
“ quails ; and, to shew you,” continued
the Monarch, “ that all things conspire
“ to put me in good-humour, they send
“ me word from Provence, that the distur-
“ bances at Marseilles are entirely appeas-
“ ed, and from several other provinces,
“ that there never hath been so plentiful
“ a year,

“ a year, and that my people will be rich,
 “ If I give them liberty of exportation.
 “ I have received advices from Italy, that
 “ things there are in such a train, that I
 “ am likely to have the glory of reconcil-
 “ ing the Pope and the Venetians. Bon-
 “ gars lets me know from Germany, that
 “ the Landgrave of Hesse is every day
 “ acquiring for me new friends, allies, and
 “ faithful servants. Buzenvola writes to
 “ Villeroy, that the Spaniards and the Fle-
 “ mings are reduced to such a degree of
 “ weakness, that they will be obliged to
 “ think of a peace or a truce, of which I
 “ must of course be the Mediator or the
 “ Guarantee; and that this will pave the
 “ way for my becoming the arbiter of
 “ Christendom. To complete my satis-
 “ faction,” added his Majesty, with a
 mirthful air, “ here am I at table, sur-
 “ rounded by these persons whom you see,
 “ of whose affection I am well assured,
 “ and whom you deem to be thoroughly
 K 2 “ capable

“capable of discoursing to me upon useful or entertaining subjects; nevertheless, I will not suffer every thing which they say to me, to pass without contradiction. I declare,” continued this best of Princes, “that all their praises shall not hinder me from knowing my own faults; and, that as for their compliments on my good fortune, if they had been always about my person since the death of the King my father, they would have found that they must make considerable abatements, and that my moments of misery have far surpassed those of my happiness.” The King concluded with this reflection; “That still he had not suffered so much from his avowed enemies, as from the ingratitude and desertion of many of those who called themselves his friends and allies, or his subjects and servants.”

This discourse, which, merry at first, had in the end become serious, was interrupted

rupted by the appearance of the Queen, who was passing from her chamber to her closet. The King rose from table to meet her, saying to her, as soon as he perceived her at a distance, "Well, my dear, did I
"not send you good melons, good par-
"tridges, and good quails? If your ap-
"petite hath been as keen as mine, you
"have made an excellent dinner; for I
"never ate so much, nor was in so good
"a humour; ask Rosny, and he will tell
"you the cause, and will relate to you all
"the good news that I have received."

The Queen, who likewise found herself agreeably disposed, made answer, that, in order to contribute her share to his Majesty's amusement, she had caused a ballet and a comedy to be got up; the ballet representing *the happiness of the Golden Age*, and the comedy *the different diversions of the four seasons*. "How glad am
"I, my dear," said Henry, "to see you
"in such good humour; let us live, I

"beseech you, always in this manner."
(*Memoires de Sully.*)

It frequently happened that Henry straggled from his attendants at the chace, and mixed familiarly amongst such persons as he chanced to meet, in order to learn what was said of him. This popular condescension sometimes drew him into pleasant adventures, from which he always came off like a man of wit. One day, having wandered from his company, he made towards the nearest village, entered the best inn in the place, and sat down at a Table d'Hote along with several tradesmen, without being known to them. After dinner, the conversation turned upon state affairs, and Henry talked of news from Court and from the King. Each gave his opinion, and at length the King's conversion became the topic. A grazier, who sat near him, said, *Let us not talk of that; the cash smells always of the herring.*

Soon

Soon after the King rises from table, pays his reckoning, and places himself at the window. Immediately he sees some Lords, who were come to look for their dinner at the village; he calls out to them, and desires them to come up. Those who had dined with the King, now knew him by the respectful manner in which the courtiers approached him: they were struck dumb, and could have wished that they had not spoken their minds so freely. The King, without shewing the least resentment for what they had said to him, clapped the grazier on the shoulder, as he was going away, and said to him, "Honest man, the cask smells always of the herring on your side, and not on mine; for you have still some of the bad leaven of the League in you." (*Mercuré François.*)

The author of the Journal just quoted, relates another circumstance of which he had been a witness: "The last time," says he,

he, " that I saw him pass, was in the ferry-
" boat at Neuilly, which happened to be
" crowded with country people. He im-
" mediately pushed in amongst them, and
" asked one about one thing, and another
" about another. He saw there a man
" with white hair and a black beard, and
" asked him the reason of that difference.
" The sly country fellow pretended that
" he did not know; but, his Majesty
" pressing him for an answer, he said, *Sire,*
" *it is because my hair is twenty years older*
" *than my beard.* The King laughed very
" heartily at this answer, and thought it
" so good, that he told it several times
" afterwards."

The following little history is extracted
from the Journal of L'Etoile, who says
he had it from a friend, to whom the
Sieur de Vitry, one of the King's officers,
had related it. Henry hunting near Gros-
bois, separated from his company, as of-
ten

ten was the case, and came alone to Creteil. He arrived there about dinner-time, as hungry as a hunter, and having entered an inn, asked the hostess if she could get him any thing for dinner? She answered, no, and that he was come too late. At that same moment Henry saw some roast meat upon the spit, and asked her whom it was for? The hostess told him, that it was for some persons above stairs, and that she believed they were attorneys. The King, whom she supposed to be a private individual, as he was unattended, begged that she would go up and tell them, that there was an honest Gentleman just come, who was very tired and very hungry, and that he requested they would let him have a piece of their roast meat for his money, or that they would let him have a corner at their table, and that he would pay his share of the reckoning. This they flatly refused, saying, that as to their roast meat there was not a bit too much for them-

selves; and that, as to dining with them, they had business together, and were inclined to be a select party. Henry, upon receiving this answer, asked the hostess for some boy to go of an errand for him. He gave this messenger a piece of money, and sent him to the Sieur de Vitry, whom he mentioned by a different name, and described by a great red riding-coat which he wore; the message was, that the Master of the great horn wanted to see him incontinently. The boy gave the message, and the Sieur de Vitry, knowing by the language, that the King was the person who had sent him, came immediately accompanied by eight or ten others. His Majesty acquainted Vitry with his misfortune, and with the vile behaviour of the attorneys, and commissioned him to go and seize them, and bring them to Grosbois, where he would not fail to have them well whipped, and their hides curried, in order to teach them to behave better another time

time to Gentlemen. This the said Sieur de Vitry saw performed without delay, notwithstanding all the arguments, supplications, remonstrances, and objections of Messieurs the attornies.

The same Prince, who was accustomed to take solitary walks in the forest of Villers-Cotteretz, in that part which lies near the gardens of the Castle, one day met the Deputy of the inhabitants of Puyfieux loaded with a sack of oats, the weight of which seemed very much to incommode him. The King asked him what he was carrying, and whither he was going. The rustic explained the matter to him, and added, that if *the King with the long nose* did right, (he meant Henry by this expression, who was at that time married to Margaret Duchefs of Valois) he would ease him of the trouble of carrying on his back, every year, a sack of oats. The clown, who did not know the King, passed on,

on, and Henry continued his walk. The day after this adventure, the King sent for the man, who, surprized at such a summons, trembled upon recognizing in the King himself, the person to whom he had spoken so cavalierly the day before. Henry bade him not be alarmed, and told him, that he sent for him in order to acquaint him, that, for the future, he would send to Puyfieux for the oats due as rent, in order to save him the trouble of carrying them on his back. The Monarch's promise was performed, and to this day the Community of Puyfieux is exempted from the obligation of carrying oats to the public granaries of the Duchy of Valois. (*Histoire du Duché de Valois.*)

When Henry was only yet King of Navarre and Duke of Albret, he resided at Nerac, a little town in Gascony. He lived like a plain Gentleman and hunted often in the Landes, a district abounding in

in all sorts of game. In the midst of the diversion, he frequently went to rest himself, and take some refreshment, at the cottage of a *Berret*; (this is a name given to the peasants of Béran, from a woollen bonnet of a particular shape, which they generally wear.) No sooner did this new *Philemon* and his wife perceive the King coming at a distance, than they hastened forward to meet him; and, each taking one of his hands, repeated, in their *Patois*, * with satisfaction pictured in their countenances, *Good morrow, my Henry; good morrow, my Henry*. They led him in triumph into their cot, and made him sit down on a bench. The *Berret* went to draw some of his best wine, his wife brought in her wooden tray some bread and cheese. Henry, more pleased with the good-will and the simplicity of his hosts, than he would have been with the most delicate entertainment, ate with a

* The low dialect of the country.

good appetite, and conversed with them familiarly upon matters suited to their capacity. When this meal was at an end, he took leave of the good couple, promising to come to them as often as the chace should lead him to that quarter; which frequently was the case. After he had obtained peaceable possession of the Throne of France, the Berret and his wife heard of the event with a degree of joy which it is not easy to express. They recollected that he had eaten of their cheeses with pleasure; and, as that was the only present in their power to offer him, they packed up two dozen of the best in a pannier. The Berret determined upon being the carrier himself, embraced his wife, and departed. At the end of three weeks he arrived in Paris, ran directly to the Louvre, said to the centinel in his dialect, *I want to see our Henry, our wife sends him some fromages de vache.** The centinel, surprized at the strange

* Cheefe made of cow's milk.

strange dress, and still more at the jargon of the man, which he did not understand, supposed he was a fool, and pushed him back, giving him some knocks with his fusil. The Berret, in great trouble, and already repenting of his journey, goes down into the Court-yard, and asks himself what could have drawn upon him so unpleasant a reception, when he was come with a present for the King? After considering a long time, it at last came into his head, that it was because he had said *fromages de vache*; and he was determined to correct his mistake. While the good man is occupied with these reflections, Henry, happening to look through the window, sees the Berret walking in the court. His dress, which was known to him, struck him immediately; and, yielding to his curiosity, he ordered the peasant to be called up. The latter throws himself at the King's feet, embraces his knees, and says to him affectionately, *Good morrow,*
my

*my Henry, our wife sends you some fromages de bœuf.** The King, ashamed that one of his countrymen should make so gross a blunder in the presence of the whole Court, stooped down, and said to him in a low voice, *Say fromages de vache.* The peasant, who still thinking of the treatment he had received, made answer in his Patois; "I would not advise you, my Henry, "to say *fromages de vache*; for I made "use of that mode of speaking at the door "of your chamber, and a great wag, "dressed in blue, gave me a score of "knocks with his fusil, and the like might "happen to you." The King laughed exceedingly at the simplicity of the good man, accepted his cheeses, loaded him with favours, and made his fortune, and that of all his family. (*Histoire d'Henri IV.*)

A few days previous to the battle of Ivry, Henry came one evening *incognito*

to

* Ox cheese.

to Alençon, with few attendants, and alighted at the house of an officer who was very much attached to him. The officer was absent, and his wife, who did not know the King, received him as one of the chief persons in the army, that is to say, in the best manner she could, and with the heartier welcome, as he said he was a friend of her husband. However, towards the evening, the King thinking he perceived symptoms of uneasiness in his hostess, said, "What is the matter, Madam? Am I troublesome to you at present? As night approaches, I find you less cheerful. Speak freely, and be assured that it is not my intention to put you to the slightest inconvenience." "Sir," answered the Lady, "I will frankly confess to you the kind of embarrassment in which I find myself. This is Thursday; if you know any thing of this province, you will not be surprized at the difficulty which I find in
"providing,

“ providing, as well as I could wish, for
“ supper. I have sent to search the whole
“ town, but in vain, there is literally no-
“ thing to be had, and you see me in a
“ state of despair. One of my neighbours,
“ indeed, says he hath a fat turkey hang-
“ ing up, which he will readily let me
“ have, on condition that he may come
“ and eat share of it. This condition ap-
“ peared to me the more hard, as the
“ man is, in fact, nothing more than a
“ substantial mechanic, whom I would not
“ take the liberty of setting down to table
“ with you; and who, however, is so te-
“ nacious of his turkey, that no offers I
“ make him, can prevail on him to part
“ with it on any other terms. And this,
“ Sir, is the real cause of my inquietude.”
Is this man a good companion? said the
King. “ Yes, Sir, he is the wit of the
“ neighbourhood; an honest man too, a
“ staunch Frenchman, a most zealous
“ royalist, and in very comfortable cir-
“ cumstances.”

“ circumstances.” “ Oh, Madam, let us
“ have him ! I feel myself very hungry,
“ and were he even to prove dull com-
“ pany, it is better to sup with him, than
“ not to have any supper at all.” The
citizen being invited, came in his Sunday
cloaths, with his turkey: while it was
roasting, he conversed in the most lively
manner, displayed the greatest fund of
native humour, told all the scandal of the
town, seasoned his accounts with the most
pleasant and witty sallies, in fine, diverted
the King so highly, that that Prince,
though dying with hunger, waited for
supper without impatience. The man’s
gaiety, though he played his part very
well at the turkey, so far from forsaking
him, rather increased during the repast.
The good King laughed most heartily,
and the more he enjoyed himself, the more
did the jovial and happy guest redouble
his strokes of merriment. When his Ma-
jesty rose from table, the honest citizen
falling

falling suddenly at his feet, cried, "Sire,
"forgive me; this day is undoubtedly the
"happiest of my life. I saw your Majesty
"pass by, as you arrived in this town; I
"was exceedingly rejoiced to see you; I
"said nothing of it even to Madam here,
"when I saw that she did not know our
"noble King—your pardon, Sire, your
"pardon—I attempted to amuse you for
"a little while; I might, doubtless, have
"been less worthy, and your Majesty
"would not have enjoyed the surprize of
"Madam my neighbour here." By this
time, the Lady was at the King's feet
likewise; but he bade them both rise with
that goodness which formed the basis of
his character. "No, Sire," cried the ci-
tizen, who would continue on his knees,
"no, Sire, I will remain where I am,
"until your Majesty vouchsafes to listen
"to me for an instant." *Well, speak then,*
said the Monarch, highly delighted with
this scene. "Sire," said the man to him
with

with an air and tone equally serious and grave, "the glory of my King is dear to me, and I cannot think without sorrow, how much sullied it must be in suffering such a pitiful fellow, as I am to sit at table with you—I see but one method of preventing the disgrace." *What is it?* replied Henry. "it is," rejoined the citizen, "to grant me a patent of Nobility."—*What? to you!*—"Why not, Sire? though formerly an artisan, I am a Frenchman; I have a heart as well as another; I think myself worthy of it at least by my loyal attachment to my King." *Very well, friend!—But what arms will you take?* "My turkey; for that matter, it hath done me this day but too much honour." *Be it so then,* cried the Monarch in a roar of laughter; *Ventre-saint-gris, thou shalt be a Gentleman, and shall bear thy turkey in pale.** Subse-

* The *Pale*, in heraldry, is the third and middle part of the escutcheon,

quent to this adventure, whether it was that this citizen was already rich, or that he afterwards became so, he purchased, near Alençon, an estate which was erected into a Seigniorship bearing his name, which he would never consent to change. His descendants are actually in possession of it at this day, and really bear, for their coat of arms, *a turkey in pale*. (Mercure de France.)

In December, 1609, Henry, at a hunting match, followed the stag with so much ardour, that he lost his company, and did not reach Meudon till it was late. He dispersed his suite amongst the different inns, and went to the house of a citizen of Paris who resided at Meudon. He found the master at supper with his family. He would not suffer them to make any addition to their repast, sat down to table, without letting any one stir from his place, ate and drank with a very good appetite, and

and went to bed. He did not wake the next day till it was very late, and said to the Lords who composed his suite, *that he had never rested so well, nor slept so soundly.* (Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.)

Henry, after conversing with a vine-dresser of Bléssois, who was ignorant of his quality, concluded the discourse with asking the vine-dresser how much he made by a day's work?—"Forty sols."—*What do you do with that money?*—"I divide it "into four parts."—*And how do you dispose of those four parts?*—"With the first "I feed myself, with the second I pay my "debts, I put the third out to interest, "and the fourth I throw away."—*This is all a riddle to me.*—"I will explain it to "you. You understand that I begin "with applying one quarter to my "own support; another quarter serves for "support of my father and mother, who "supported me; the third quarter is employed,

“ ployed in the maintenance of my chil-
“ dren, who one day will maintain me ;
“ the last part is for the King, who re-
“ ceives nothing of it, or what is next to
“ nothing ; therefore it is lost both to
“ him and to me.”

Soon after the peace of Vervins, this Prince returning from the chace, clad plainly, and attended by only two or three Gentlemen, crossed the river at the quay Malaquais, at the spot where we cross at this day. Observing that the boatman did not know him, he asked him what the people said of the peace ? “ Faith, I
“ know not what to think of this same
“ fine peace,” answered the boatman ;
“ every thing is taxed, even to this poor
“ old boat, with which I struggle to gain
“ a livelihood.” *And does not the King,*
continued Henry, *mean to put those taxes*
in better order ? “ The King, is a good
“ man,” replied the clown ; “ but he hath
“ a mistress

“ a mistress who must have so many fine
“ robes, and so many toys and washes,
“ and it is we who must pay for all these !
“ yet this might pass, if she was his only ;
“ but they say that she gives her favours
“ to many more besides.” Henry, who
had been much diverted with this conversation, sent for the boatman the next day, and made him repeat before the Duchess of Beaufort,* all that he had said the day preceding. The Duchess, in a rage, would have had him hanged. “ You are
“ a fool,” said the King to her ; “ this is
“ only a poor devil, whom want hath put
“ out of humour. I intend that he shall
“ no longer be taxed for his wherry, and
“ I am sure that he will sing every day,
“ *Vive Henri, Vive Gabrielle.*” (Sauval,
& *Essais Historiques sur Paris.*)

The same Prince, being at a hunting match in the Vendômois, and separated

* Gabrielle d'Estrées.

from his attendants, met a countryman sitting at the foot of a tree. *What art thou doing there?* said Henry IV. to him. *Ma finte, Sir, I was there to see the King pass by.* "If thou wilt mount upon the "crupper of my horse," added the Monarch, "I will conduct thee to a place, "where thou shalt see him at thy ease." The peasant mounted, and while they were on their way, asked how he should be able to distinguish the King? "Thou "needest look only at him who shall have "his hat on, while all the rest are bare-headed." The King rejoins the chace, and all the Lords salute him. "Well," says he to the countryman, "which is "the King?" *Ma finte, Sir,* replied the rustic, *it must be either you or I; for only us two have our hats on.* (Lettres récréatives et morales, par le Marquis Caraccioli.)

This gaiety was so natural to Henry, that even sickness, or various unpleasant accidents,

accidents, could not deprive him of it. He sometimes was attacked by the gout. "I had gone to the arsenal with my wife," said he one day merrily, talking of one of those attacks; "Sully said to me, "Sire, you have money here, and you "never see it: in fact, I content myself "with knowing that I have it, without "taking any pleasure in looking at it. "We went to the Bastile, and he shewed "us in what manner the treasure was laid "up: I assure you that at that moment "the gout seized me, and made me remember the proverb, *They who have the "gout have money.*" (Matthieu.)

On Friday the 9th of June, 1606, the King and Queen crossing the ferry at Neuilly, in returning from St. Germain-en-Laye, and accompanied by M. de Vendôme, were near being drowned, particularly the Queen, who drank more than she had a mind for; and, had it not been for a footman, and a Gentleman

named La Châtaignerie, who jumped at all hazards into the water, and seized her by the hair, she must inevitably have perished. This accident cured the King of a great tooth-ach, which had afflicted him; and when the danger was over, he jested upon himself, saying, "That he never
" found a better receipt for the tooth-ach;
" that, as to the rest, they had eaten too
" much salt meat at dinner, and that the
" folks had had a mind to make them
" drink after it." (*Journal d'Henri IV.*)

The cause of this accident, according to the *Mercur François*, was, in entering the float, which, perhaps, had no parapet, the horses, carelessly going too much to one side, fell into the water, and by their weight dragged the coach after them, in which were the King and Queen, the Duke de Vendôme, the Princess of Conti, and the Duke of Montpensier, whom the rain had prevented from alighting. The Lords on horseback plunged into the river,

ver, without waiting to take off either their cloaks, or their swords, and hastened to the spot where they had seen his Majesty, That Prince, having escaped the danger, immediately returned into the water, in spite of the intreaties of his officers, in order to give assistance to the Queen and the Duke of Vendôme.

Henry, from constitution, was exceedingly given to women; but his attachment to his mistresses had no influence upon his conduct with respect to his servants, nor drew him off, at any time, from his principal duties. The Duchess of Beaufort required certain favours from Sully, which he could not possibly grant her. She made bitter complaints to the King, who desired his Minister to go to her, and to endeavour to appease her by sound arguments; *And if that will not suffice*, said he, *I will talk to her as a master*. Rosny repaired to the Duchess, and was opening the business by a sort of explanation,

tion, but she did not give him time to go through with it. Her passion not permitting her to be guarded in her expressions, she interrupted him with a reproach, *that he missed the King, and made him believe that black was white.* "Oh! Madam," said Rosny, interrupting her in his turn, but with an air of the greatest coolness, "since you are for assuming this tone, I take my leave; but for all that I will not cease to do my duty;" and went away, without saying, or listening to a word more. When he repeated to the King the expressions which the Duchess had made use of, he put him in a very ill-humour with her. "Come along with me," said Henry, "and I will let you see that women have not such entire possession of me." His coach not coming soon enough, he went into Sully's. The Duchess of Beaufort, who had expected soon to see him, from the manner in which Rosny had parted from her, had in the meanwhile studied to set off her person

son to the best advantage. When the King was announced, she went to the door of the first hall to receive him. Henry, without embracing her, or even shewing her the ordinary marks of tenderness, said; "Let us go, Madam, into your
"chamber, and let none enter it but you,
"Rosny, and myself; for I wish to talk
"to you both, and to make you live on
"good terms with each other." He ordered the door to be shut, looked whether there was any person in the anti-chamber and in the closet; then, taking Sully with one hand, while he held his mistress with the other, he told the latter with an air which must have very much surprized her,
"That the true motives of his attachment
"to her, was the gentleness which he had
"thought he perceived in her disposition;
"that he found, by her late behaviour,
"that what he had supposed to be her
"real character, was nothing but a feigned appearance; that she had deceived
"him, and that she followed evil counsels,

“ which caused her to commit faults, the
“ consequences of which might prove ir-
“ reparable.” He concluded with com-
manding her to get the better of her dis-
like to Sully, for that assuredly he would
not dismiss him to please her. The Du-
chess began to shed tears ; she assumed a
tender and submissive air ; she kissed Hen-
ry’s hand ; she omitted nothing, in fine,
which she imagined was capable of soften-
ing the heart of that Monarch. When
she thought she had affected him suffici-
ently, she complained that, instead of the
return which she might have expected from
a Prince, to whom she had given her
whole heart, she perceived that he was
cruelly making a sacrifice of her. She
summoned to his recollection every thing
that Rosny had said and done against her
children ; then, feigning to yield herself
up to her despair, she sunk upon the bed,
where she was determined, she said, to
await the stroke of death, after the inhu-
man affront that she had suffered. Henry

was

was affected by this scene; but he recovered himself so suddenly, that the Dukes did not perceive it. He continued to address her in the same tone; "That she might have spared herself the trouble of having recourse to such artifices on so trivial an occasion." This reproach stung her sensibly; she redoubled her tears, declaring, "That she plainly saw she was abandoned; that it was, doubtless, to augment her shame, and the triumph of Rosny, that his Majesty had chosen to make him witness of the most cruel expressions that were ever used to a woman." After she had uttered these last words, she seemed plunged in the deepest despair. "I vow to God, Madam, this is too much," replied Henry, losing all patience; "I see clearly that you have been set on to use all this silly artifice, in order to prevail on me to dismiss a faithful servant whom I cannot do without: I declare to you, that were I reduced to the necessity of choos-

“ing which of the two to part with, I
“would sooner give up ten mistresses such
“as you, than one servant such as Sul-
“ly.” (*Memoires de Sully.*)

After this discourse, the King rose abruptly to leave the apartment. The Duchefs of Beaufort, who apprehended that it was in order never to see her more, changed her battery. She ran towards the King to stop him; she threw herself at his feet; she kissed his hands; she intreated him to pardon her fault, and made some apologies to Rosny for her harsh behaviour. The King melts; mutual promises are made to forget what had past, and they all three separate as good friends. When the King was gone out of the Duchefs's apartment, he took Rosny by the hand, and squeezing it earnestly, said, *Well, my friend, have not I held out bravely?*

Henry had commenced his acquaintance with Gabrielle d'Estrées, while he was occupied

cupied with the siege of Paris. One day, as he was boasting much of the charms of Marie de Beauvilliers, his mistress at that time, saying, that he preferred her to all other women, the Duke de Bellegarde, Grand Equerry of France, affirmed that he would alter his sentiments were he to see Mademoiselle d'Estrées. He said so much in her praise, and drew so charming a picture of her, that he made the King desirous of seeing her. Bellegarde, who was in love with that Lady, perceived the error that he had committed in mentioning her to the King; but he was now gone too far to recede. Henry saw her at Cœuvres, where she resided, and found her even superior to the fine picture which had been drawn of her. Gabrielle at first made no return to the passionate addresses of Henry, and this resistance served only to increase his flame. The Monarch would have wished to let no day pass away without visiting his new mistress; but the difficulty was, how to reach Cœuvres without

without running great hazards. It was necessary to travel seven miles through an enemy's country, to cross an extensive wood, and pass in sight of two garrisons of the League. One day, however, he resolved on risking every thing. He took horse with some officers in whom he could confide, and went four miles with this attendance. When he came within three miles of the house where his mistress lived, he sent back his company, alighted, dressed himself like a peasant, procured a sack of straw, and finished his expedition with the sack upon his shoulders. Gabrielle still received him very coldly, and remained with him but for a few moments. At length the elevation of M. d'Estrées, father of the *Belle*, the sincere attachment which Henry manifested for her, his manners so affable and full of goodness, obliged that Beauty to shew more kindness to so generous and beneficent a lover, Gabrielle, nevertheless, continued to entertain a passion for Bellegarde, of whom
the

the King had some suspicions. There happened a trivial circumstance which must have opened his eyes still farther, which was, that being at one of his houses, on account of some enterprize which he had undertaken on that quarter, and having gone three or four miles for that purpose, Gabrielle took to her bed, declaring that she found herself much indisposed, and Bellegarde had pretended business at Mantes, which was at but a little distance. No sooner had the King set out, than Arphure, one of Gabrielle's women, her most intimate confidante, and the person on whom she entirely depended, introduced Bellegarde into a closet, of which she alone had the key; and after her mistress had dismissed all those who were in the room, the lover was permitted to make his appearance. While they were together, the King, who had not found what he went to look for, returned sooner than he was expected, and was very near finding what he did not come to look for.

All

All that could be done, was to thrust Bellegarde into Arphure's closet, the door of which was exactly at the head of Gabrielle's bed; and in which there was a window looking towards the garden. As soon as the King came in, he asked for Arphure, that she might bring him some sweetmeats which she kept in that closet. Gabrielle said that she was not there, and that she had asked leave to go and visit some relations in the town. "Notwithstanding," cried the King, "I have a desire to eat some sweetmeats, and, if Arphure cannot be found, let some one come and open the door, or break it open for me." He himself gave it several strokes. God knows in what alarm were the lovers, so near being discovered. Gabrielle, pretending a great head-ach, complained that the noise disturbed her; but the King was, for this time, determined to break open the door. Bellegarde, seeing no other remedy, jumped out of the window, and luckily escaped unhurt,

unhurt, although the window was very high. Immediately Arphure, who had concealed herself merely that she might not open the door, came in a great flurry, declaring, as her excuse, that she had no notion she should be wanted. She then went to fetch what the King desired so impatiently, and Gabrielle, finding that they were not discovered, made the King a thousand reproaches, for his behaviour. "I see plainly," said she, "that you have
" a mind to treat me like the rest of those
" whom you have loved, and that your
" fickle temper is seeking for some cause
" of breaking with me; but I will be be-
" forehand with you, and will retire with
" my husband, whom I left, in obedience
" to your authority. I own that the fond
" passion which I felt for you, hath caused
" me to forget both my duty and my
" honour, and yet you repay me for both
" with inconstancy under the veil of jealous
" suspicions, for which I have never given
" you any cause even in thoughts." Her
tears

tears were now ready at command: the King was so much affected, that he asked her forgiveness a thousand times, confessed that he had been too much to blame, and was a long while before he again shewed any symptoms of jealousy. (*Histoire des Amours d'Henri IV.*)

The military ardour of this Prince was not diminished by his attachment to that beauty; witness the letter which he wrote to her on a very perilous occasion, and in which he said to her: “ If I am vanquished, you know me sufficiently to believe that I will not consult my safety in flight; but my last thought shall be on God, my last but one on you.” (*Manuscripts de la Bibliotheque du Roi.*)

After the death of the Duchess of Beaufort, Mademoiselle d'Entrague, afterwards Marchioness de Verneuil, became all-powerful over the heart of this Monarch. The damsel, says Sully, was no novice; though

though pleased at seeing herself the object of the affection of a great Prince, she yielded still more to the ambitious notion that flattered her, that, situated as things were, it would not be impossible to act her part so well, as to prevail on her lover to change the title of *mistress* into that of *wife*. She was therefore in no hurry to comply with his desires. Pride and modesty were employed by turns, and then interest had its share. She demanded no less than a hundred thousand crowns as the price of the last favour. Henry promised this sum, and passed a night with the Marchioness. The next day, Sully, who had received orders to pay the hundred thousand crowns, carried that sum into the King's closet, counted out the money, and affected to display it before that Monarch, in order to let him see what an engagement he had entered into. Henry asked whom the money was for? Answer was made, that it was for the Marchioness de Verneuil. *Ventre-saint-gris*, said his Majesty,

jesty, it hath been a very dear night to me.

The Marchioness carried her views and her ambition so far, as to attempt to engage her lover to contract a legal marriage with her; but as that Prince was not yet in a condition to enable him to give her that proof of his affection, she demanded a written instrument from him, by which he promised to espouse her within a year, if she had the good fortune to bring him a son. Henry, too weak to resist his inclinations, gave her this promise. But, as he possessed a rectitude and greatness of soul, which induced him to own his faults to those whom he confided in, he sent, one day, for Sully into the gallery at Fontainebleau, put that paper containing the promise into his hands, and asked him what he thought of it. Sully, after having read it, returned it to him with a coldness which shewed that he did not approve of it. "Come, come," said the King, "don't
" carry

“ carry your discretion to such lengths;
“ you may, without offending me, say
“ and do whatever you have in your mind;
“ it is a just amends to you for the three
“ hundred thousand livres that I squeezed
“ from you.” Sully made the King repeat several times the promise which he had made the Marchioness; and, not hesitating any farther to let his Prince know what he thought, he took the paper out of his hands, and tore it piecemeal. *How!* exclaimed Henry, much astonished at this bold action, *what is this you are doing? I believe you are mad.* “ True, Sire,” answered he, “ I am mad; and would to God I were the only madman in the “ kingdom.” Sully, observing that the King was vexed, considered his own disgrace as inevitable; but that Prince, whose anger had at first blinded his judgement, and prevented him from listening to the dictates of reason, was pleased with the noble boldness of his Minister, and gave him some days after, the post of Grand Master

Master of the Artillery. (*Memoires de Sully.*)

Henry IV. says M. de St. Palaye, had preserved the character of the ancient chivalry. His frankness, and his respect for the ladies, might well have placed him on a level with those heroes who had received the title of *Chevalier sans reproche*. Like them, he was fond of glory, and, like them, took a pleasure in adorning himself with the trophies which he had won in battle. The Duchess of Guise, whom he called *his good cousin*, having asked him for a passport, he was not content with giving it, but even went to meet her, and having conducted her into his apartment, said, *Cousin, you see how well I love you; for I have dressed myself on your account.* "Sire," said the Duchess laughing, "I don't perceive that you are so much dressed as you say you are; you have no reason to boast about the matter." Yes, replied the King, *but you don't take notice*
of

of it. Then shewing her his hat, *Here,* continued he, *is a trophy which I won at the battle of Coutras, as my share of the booty, and the victory. This other I gained at the battle of Ivry. Would you wish then, Cousin, to see on me two handsomer tokens to prove that I am well dressed?* Madame de Guise agreed with him; "But," observed she disdainfully, "you could not, Sire, shew me one taken from my husband." No, said Henry, *the rather as we never happened to meet and attack each other; but if we had, by any chance come to that, I know not what might have been the issue.* The King, in this conversation, did not discover the least resentment, and seemed only to be occupied with the thoughts of glory. (*Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.*)

The letters which Henry IV. wrote to his mistresses, are, for the greatest part, preserved in the original in the Royal Library. They are lively and agreeable,
and

and are a true picture of his disposition. Amongst others, I have read one, said Menage, which is very pretty, and which concludes thus; *Take care that you be punctual, (to the appointment he means) for otherwise I shall shew you that I am King, and, what is more, a Gascon. (Menagiana.)*

Can any thing be more noble and gallant, than this billet of Henry to the Duchess of Beaufort; “ My dearest love,
“ in two hours after the arrival of this
“ messenger you will see the Cavalier who
“ doats on you, and who is called the King
“ of France and Navarre; a title surely
“ honourable, but very troublesome; that
“ of *your lover* is much more delightful.
“ All three together are good, put what
“ sauce you will to them, and I am firmly
“ resolved not to yield them up to any
“ one.—I am glad that you love my sister;
“ it is one of the sure testimonies that you
“ can give me of your favour, which I
“ cherish more than my life, although I
“ love

“ love that very well—September 12th.

“ From our delicious defarts at Fontaine-

“ bleau.” (*Histoire des Amours d’Henri IV.*)

Henry was conscious of his own defects, and possessed a sincerity and greatness of soul which induced him to confess them.

“ Some,” said he, in a letter to Sully,

“ find fault with me for being fond of

“ buildings and expensive works, others

“ for being attached to the ladies and the

“ delights of love. In all these objections,

“ I will not deny that there may be some

“ truth; but I may likewise say, that when

“ they do not exceed just bounds, I should

“ rather receive praise than blame for them;

“ and, at all events, such amusements may

“ well be excused, when they do no da-

“ mage to my people, as a kind of com-

“ pensation for the many uneasinesses I

“ have suffered, and for the many vexa-

“ tions, hardships, perils, and dangers,

“ through which I have passed from my

“ infancy

“infancy even to my fiftieth year. The
“Scripture doth not absolutely say that
“we should be without sins or blemishes;
“the rather, as such infirmities are con-
“nected with the impetuosity and promp-
“titude of our nature; but that we should
“not be governed by them, nor let them
“reign over our inclinations, which is
“what I study to effect, being unable to
“do better. You are acquainted with se-
“veral circumstances which have passed
“respecting my mistresses, (which have
“been the objects that all the world hath
“supposed to have most influence over me)
“whether I have not often supported your
“opinions in contradiction to their whims;
“and have even told them, when they
“were peevish, that I would much rather
“lose ten thousand such mistresses, than
“one servant such as you, who were ne-
“cessary to me in affairs both of glory
“and utility.” (*Memoires de Sully.*)

Henry IV. was of a fiery temper, and
easily inflamed; but, by continual reflec-
tions

tions upon the evil effects of anger, by the instruction of much adversity, by the necessity of gaining over partisans; in fine, by the temperament of a heart inclined to tenderness, he had changed those ardent transports into simple emotions visible in his countenance, gestures, and still more rarely in his words. One day, Crillon came into Henry's closet, to clear himself from some reproaches which had been cast on him; he proceeded from excuses to altercation, from altercation to rage and blasphemies. The King, provoked at his continuing so long in the same strain, commanded him to leave the room; but, as Crillon was returning every moment from the door, and the courtiers perceived the King grow pale with anger and impatience, they were afraid that that Prince would seize one of their swords, and strike a man who had behaved so insolently. Having at length recovered himself, after Crillon was gone out, and turning to the courtiers who attended him, and who, with De

M

Thou,

Thou, were admiring his patience in bearing with such an outrageous transport, he said to them, "I am by nature passionate; but since I have obtained a knowledge of myself, I am always on my guard against emotions which it is dangerous to listen to. I know, by experience, that anger is an evil counsellor, and am glad to have such respectable witnesses of my moderation." (*Memoires de la Vie du President De Thou.*)

Some days after, Crillon became sensible of the excess which he had been guilty of, and that he had failed in respect to his royal Master. It afflicted him exceedingly, and he had nothing so much at heart, as the desire of testifying his repentance. He goes to the King, with grief painted in his countenance, and throws himself at the feet of his Sovereign. Henry, full of goodness, raises him up, and embraces him: "I love you," says that Prince; "you know it; have I not always done justice to your fidelity

“fidelity and attachment to my service?
“Your fiery spirit, so praise-worthy in battle, becomes criminal when you give
“way to it in speaking before a master, who
“knows the full value of what you have
“done for him. Copy from me, Crillon;
“learn to moderate your temper.” (*Vie du brave Crillon.*)

One day M. du Maine came to complain to this Prince of the insolence of M. de Balagny, who had challenged his son, the Duke of Aiguillon. “Balagny is fortunate,” said M. du Maine, “that I was not at home; I would have hung him at the gate of my castle.” The King made him no answer, but turned to those who were in the room, and said, *The good man still smells strong of the League.* (Memoires de Choisy)

This Prince hath been taxed with being somewhat too saving; but it was only by those who were ignorant that a King is only a steward for his subjects, or who rated

their own services at too high a price. Henry was informed of these reproaches ; “ I am accused,” said he one day, “ of “ being stingy : yet I do three things not “ at all akin to avarice ; I make war, I “ make love, and I build.” (*Le Grain.*)

He had amassed near fifteen millions, a sum, in those days, very considerable, and which, probably, he destined for his expedition to Germany. This money was laid up in one of the towers of the Bastille, and the tower is called, to this day, the Tower of the Treasure. Henry chose that the Duke of Sully, as Superintendant of the Finances, and the First Presidents, as well of the Parliament, as of the Chamber of Accounts, should each have a key ; in order, said he, that the treasure may be better guarded, and that nothing may be taken thence without the knowledge of every body. Representations were made to him relative to the oppositions and remonstrances with which he would be perpetually

petually teized by each of these two assemblies, on account of the disbursement of that money. "It is for that very reason," answered Henry, "that I wish them to have keys to it; as it is not reasonable that money levied upon my subjects, and which belongs to them still more than it does to me, should ever be disbursed, but at the most seasonable times, and for their advantage." (*Memoires de Sully*.)

The city of Paris might boast of being indebted to him for its most beautiful edifices. The Spanish Ambassadors who came to that capital to sign the treaty of Vervins, were astonished to see it so much embellished, and so different from what it had been during the civil wars. One of them said to the King, *Sire, here is a city the face of which hath been much altered since we last saw it.* "Don't be surprized at that," answered Henry; "when the master of the house is not at home,

“ every thing runs to disorder ; but, when
“ he is returned, his presence enlivens and
“ adorns every thing about it.”

This Prince, who was accused of being
so thrifty, did not fail, however, to reward
fresh services with fresh instances of libera-
lity. “ I do not wait,” said he in a letter
to Sully, “ till those who serve me well
“ ask for something. You assist me so
“ well in my affairs, that I wish likewise
“ to assist you in your’s. I give you twen-
“ ty thousand crowns upon my extraordi-
“ nary revenue ; make out the necessary
“ warrant for them.” “ I hear,” said he
in another letter, “ that you are building
“ at La Chapelle, and that you are laying
“ out a park there ; as a friend to builders,
“ and being your good master, I give you
“ six thousand crowns, to enable you to do
“ something handsome.” (*Memoires de
Sully.*)

Henry IV. says Prefixe, was no bigot,
but a truly pious Christian. He had no-
ble

ble sentiments respecting the grandeur and infinite goodness of the Divine Being. He said, “ that he trembled with fear, and
“ became more diminutive than an atom,
“ when he found himself in the presence
“ of that Majesty, who hath made all
“ things from nothing, and who can reduce
“ them to nothing again, by withdrawing
“ the aid of his Almighty Hand; but that
“ he felt himself transported with unspeak-
“ able joy, when he considered that that
“ Sovereign Goodness had all human kind
“ under his wings, like his children, and
“ particularly Kings, to whom he commu-
“ nicates his authority, in order to make
“ the rest of his creatures happy.” (*Histoire d’Henri IV. par Peresfixe.*)

Henry could not look, without vexation, upon Prelates who led wicked lives, and upon corrupt Judges. He said, speaking of the former, “ I would be very glad
“ to do what they talk of; but they are
“ far from imagining that I know all that

“they do.” And, speaking of the latter, he said; “I cannot comprehend how there
 “can be persons so wicked, as to give
 “judgement contrary to their knowledge
 “and their consciences.” (*Prefixe.*)

He had nominated to be a Knight of the Order of the Holy Ghost, a certain courtier, who had obtained that honour at the solicitation of the Duke of Nevers. The custom is, that the candidate, when receiving the collar, shall repeat the *Domine non sum dignus.** The new Blue Ribband having pronounced these words, the King said to him, “I know that very
 “well; and, therefore, would not have
 “given it to you, but for the intreaties of
 “my cousin of Nevers.”

Some one asked Henry to punish an outrage committed against the Officers of Justice. “I have,” replied that Monarch, “only two eyes and two feet;
 “in what should I be distinguished from

* Lord, I am not worthy.

“my

“my subjects, if I had not the direction
“of the powers of Justice?” (*Prefixe.*)

This Monarch made the following answer to a courtier, who was soliciting the pardon of a nephew condemned for an assassination: “I am very sorry that it is
“not in my power to comply with your
“request. It becomes you to act like an
“uncle, me to act like a King; I excuse
“your request, do you excuse my refusal.” (*Prefixe.*)

The Marechal de Boisdauphin asked Henry to pardon a Gentleman, named Berthaut, Lieutenant to the Marechal, and who was condemned to lose his head by a sentence of the Parliament. The King granted it to him. The Court was informed of this, and deputed the President de Thou to represent to his Majesty of what consequence it was that the sentence should be executed. The Marechal was present. The King, wrought upon by the arguments of the President de

Thou, and by the prayers of Boisdauphin, was exceedingly embarrassed; but, addressing the latter, he said; "Monsieur Boisdauphin, is it not the friendship which you have for Berthaut, that determines you to speak to me in his favour?" Yes, Sire, answered the Marechal. "But," says the King, "may I not suppose that you have as much friendship for me as for him?" Ah, Sire, what a comparison! replied Boisdauphin. "Well then," continued Henry, "let us leave to justice a free course, since, in saving Berthaut, you make me lose my soul and my honour: I have already offended God but too often, without adding this sin to the rest." The sentence was executed, and Berthaut was beheaded. (*Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.*)

This good Prince loved pleasantry, and willingly allowed it in the companions of his victories. Walking one day in the environs of Paris, he stopped, and putting his head between his legs, said, looking at

at the city, *Ab, how many cuckolds nests!*
 A courtier, who was near him, did the
 same thing, and cried, *Sire, I see the*
Louvre. (Dictionnaire des Hommes Il-
 lustres.)

Henry coming from hearing Mass at
 the Feuillants, met Bassompierre and M.
 de Guise, whom he took along with him,
 quitting Mademoiselle de Villeroy, who
 accompanied him. "I came from the
 "Feuillants, where I saw the stone
 "which Bassompierre hath placed over
 "the door with this inscription; *Quid re-*
tribuam Domino pro omnibus quæ retri-
buit mihi? I have added for him; *Cal-*
cem salutaris accipiam." M. de Guise
 could not help laughing, and said to the
 King, "You are, in my opinion, one of
 "the most agreeable men in the world,
 "and our destiny hath connected us with
 "each other. Had you been only a man
 "of the middle class of life, I should have
 "wished to have you in my service, at
 "any price; but, since it pleased God
 "that

“that you should be by birth a great Monarch, it could be no otherwise than that I should belong to you.” Henry embraced him, and replied, “You do not know me yet, all of you; but I shall die one of these days, and when you have lost me, you will know the value of me, and the difference that there is between me and other men.” Bassompierre then said to him, “My God! Sire, will you never have done afflicting us, by telling us that you will soon die? There is no degree of happiness in this world equal to your’s; you are in the flower of your age, in perfect health, and strength of body, loaded with honours, enjoying in complete tranquillity the most flourishing kingdom upon earth, beloved and adored by your subjects, abounding in wealth and fine houses, blessed with a handsome wife and pretty children, who are growing up; what more do you need, and what more have you to wish for?” The King sighed, and answered, “My friend, all this
“ must

"must be left behind;" and added these lines from Horace, *Linquenda tellus, & domus, & placens uxor, &c.* (Memoires de Bassompierre.)

The first year of Henry's marriage, the Queen devised a ballet, formed of fifteen Ladies of the greatest beauty and highest rank at Court, whom she had selected for this performance. The Pope's Nuncio was there. The King said to him, *Sir, I never saw a more beautiful or more dangerous squadron than that.* (Tablettes Historiques.)

When the Chancellor de Chiverny was baptized at St. Germain-en-Laye, Madame d'Angoulême, his godmother, said, that he was the heaviest child that she had ever held. The King answered, *He may well be heavy, Cousin, don't you see that the Seals are dangling at his breech?* (Manuscrit in 4to.)

A Courtier having come post to make interest for a rich Abbey, vacant by the death of the Chevalier d'Aumale, who was
killed

killed by de Vic, in 1591, at the retaking of St. Denis, (it was the Abbey of Bec in Normandy) the King said to him, *It is given away.* "How, Sire?" cried the other; "I am the first to ask for it; for I have outstripped the courier who is bringing you the news of the retaking of St. Denis." Sir, replied the King very ingeniously, *you don't know, then, that De Vic killed the Chevalier d'Aumale, for no other reason than to obtain that Abbey for his son.* (Memoires de la Houffaye.)

A Captain came one day to demand his discharge from Henry, with that freedom which the circumstances of the times seemed to authorize; *Sire, three words; money or discharge.* Henry instantly replied in a style equally laconic, *Captain, four; neither one nor t'other.* However, some days after, the King, who esteemed the man, ordered him a greater sum than he had demanded. (*Tablettes Historiques.*)

The towers of the metropolitan city of
Tours

Tours may be looked upon as a miniature of Gothic architecture. They are finished with all possible art and delicacy. Henry IV. therefore, the first time he saw them, asked pleasantly enough, if they had cafes?

Henry often mingled with his witticisms little strokes of history, which gave them a sort of seasoning.

In a ballet performed at the Louvre, nine Ladies appeared with the Queen at the head of them; amongst these nine Ladies was the wife of D'O, Superintendent of the Finances. They all had their head-dresses rather loaded than enriched with jewels, but especially the wife of the Superintendent. A drunken Swiss fell senseless at the door of the ball-room. The King, who saw him fall, asked the cause of it. *Sire*, answered some one, *we must not be surprized at it; he had a pot of wine upon his head.* "Ah! that is not a good reason," said his Majesty; see
 "how

“how erect and firm Madame D’O is
“upon her feet, and yet she hath more
“than one pot of wine upon her head.”
It is well known what *pot de vin* signifies in matters of finance. (*Tablettes Historiques.*)

A certain person having presented the Anagram of the words *Henry the Great* to that Monarch, in the hope of being rewarded for it; the King asked him what was his profession? *Sire*, said he, *my profession is to make anagrams; but I am very poor.* “That is not extraordinary,” replied the King; “for you follow but a “poor occupation.” (*Dictionnaire des Hommes Illustres.*)

A Bishop talking of war one day to Henry, and talking very ill upon it, that Prince pretended not to have heard him, and asked him, *For what Saint was that day’s service in the Breviary?* (*Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.*)

Count Gordon, who was hump-backed,
asked

asked Henry for the investiture of all the governments of the Duke of Epemon. *You are joking*, said the King to him; *be satisfied with the breeches, for the doublet will never fit such a shape as your's.* The Count was a Scotchman, a wit, and a maker of anagrams. He had found, in the words HENRI DE BOURBON, letters making up this sentence, DE BON ROY BONHEUR. The King having seen this anagram, and approved it, some one said to his Majesty, that an O had been added. *That is not material*, said the King, who had just succeeded Henry III. *if there are but two O's in my name, my Crown will make the third.* (Tablettes Historiques.)

One day Henry met, in the apartments of the Louvre, a man whom he did not know, and whose exterior did not announce him to be a person of any distinction. The King asked him *to whom he belonged*, supposing him to be an attendant of some Nobleman. "I belong to
"myself,"

"myself," said the man with a haughty and disrespectful tone. *My friend*, replied the King, turning his back on him, *you serve a foolish master.* (Tablettes citées.)

As Henry was passing near the Thuilleries with his whole Court, he met a woman driving a cow. *What will you take for your cow, gossip?* said the King in a serious tone. She told him the price. *Ah! you ask me too much*, said he, *she is not worth that.* "No, but you don't understand these matters, my good Sir," said the woman; "you are not a cow-merchant." *You are mistaken, goody*, replied the King; *don't you see all these calves that are following me?* (Tablettes citées.)

His gardener at Fontainebleau was complaining to him one day, in presence of the Duke of Epemon, who was a Gascon, that nothing would grow in that soil. *My friend*, said Henry to him, looking at the Duke, *plant it with Gascons, for they*

they thrive every where. (Memoires pour servir à l'Histoire de France.)

Henry passing through a little town, saw several Deputies coming up to harangue him. One of them having commenced his discourse, was interrupted by an ass, who began to bray, "Gentlemen," cried the King, "one at a time, if you please." (*Pitaval.*)

The Deputies of Provence being come to Lyons to compliment him, the spokesman suddenly stopped short. The King turned to the rest, and said, "I understand you; you mean to tell me that Provence belongs to me, and not to the Duke of Savoy."

The same thing happened to a President of the Parliament of Rouen, who was introduced in order to make a speech to his Majesty; he stopped short. The King smiled, and said to those about him, *This is not at all extraordinary; the Normans*

mans are accustomed to fail of their word.*

A certain person haranguing Henry for the Assembly which had deputed him, was so long before he finished his discourse, that the King, weary of listening to him for above an hour, at length took him by the hand, and shewed him the gallery of the Louvre, saying, "What think you of this building? When it is finished, will it not be a fine thing?" *Affuredly, Sire,* said the tedious speaker. "Well then," replied the King, "it is the same with your oration. As to the rest," continued he, with an air of goodness, "I have clearly understood your arguments; I shall pay due regard to them at proper time and place."

Henry being at Notre Dame, to hear Fenouillet, Bishop of Montpellier, preach, went, after sermon, into the choir, to hear vespers. His Majesty was waiting on his

* Rouen is the capital of Normandy.

knees in the upper stalls till the service should begin, and observed that a dispute had taken place between his musicians and those of the Cathedral. He inquired the cause of it. The Great Chanter, in his cope, and with his staff in his hand, came up to the King, and in a very long discourse, asserted the rights of the Chanters of Notre-Dame against the Musicians of his Majesty. Henry answered, "Hear what my Almoner is going to say to you on the subject; after he hath explained himself, I will decide your differences."

The Almoner stood up for the privileges of the Chapel, and the Monarch, weary of the dispute, which had now lasted above an hour, said, "Well, well, chant all of you; but let my band take the lead."

This anecdote may serve to prove, that the officers of the Chapel, and the King's Chamber, have precedence in all ceremonies where they accompany his Majesty; and that it is only on sufferance, and as a matter of compliment, that the other musicians

ficians are permitted to sing along with them. (*Etat actuel de la Musique du Roi.*)

Henry sometimes went to dine with Zamet, one of his favourites, and the richest Farmer-General of his time, in order to form there little parties of pleasure. One day, after dinner, Zamet shewed the King his house, which he had rebuilt; and making him take notice of all the nooks and corners, and other things that he had contrived, said, "Sire, I have made out these
"two halls, and these three closets which
"your Majesty sees on this side."—*Aye, aye*, cries the King, *and of the parings I made gloves.*

Zamet was an Italian, and Henry liked him because he was agreeable and jovial. At the marriage of one of Zamet's daughters, the Notary who drew the contract asked him what were his titles? "I am," answered Zamet, "Lord Paramount of
"seventeen hundred thousand crowns."

It was this same Zamet, who said to
Henry

Henry IV. "I have made a great fortune
" by buying merchandize very dear and
" selling it very cheap. I bought it dear,
" that I might have none but what was
" good ; I sold it much cheaper than other
" traders, but I disposed of a hundred
" times more than they did."

The President Chevalier having never been able to obtain the place of First President of the Parliament of Paris, let him employ what means he would, wished to have the post of President à Mortier, which had belonged to the President d'Ambouille ; but other candidates prevented him ; which made Henry IV. say, *Chevalier is very unlucky ; he can't succeed in his views even with money.* (Manuscrit in 4to.)

Henry's taylor had published a book, containing regulations, as he called them, that were necessary for the welfare of the State. He had the assurance to present it to the King. That Prince laughed, and took it, and, after reading a few pages,
said

said to one of his Valets-de-chambre, "Go
" look for my Chancellor; let him come
" and take measure of me for a suit of
" cloaths; here is my Taylor making re-
" gulations for the good of the Govern-
" ment." (*Tablettes Historiques.*)

The Duke of Mayenne was importun-
ing Henry for the payment of the money
which had been promised him in the treaty
with that Prince, in 1596. The King an-
swered smiling, "Sir, I cannot pay you;
" it would be easier for me to give you
" another battle of Ivry." (*Tablettes ciliées.*)

It was told to Henry, that the wife of
the Marechal de Retz, a woman famous
for her knowledge, her learning, and her
wit, had left considerable legacies to her
physician and her lawyer. "For a woman
" of her wit," said the King, "she com-
" mitted a great mistake at the latter end
" of her days, in enriching her physician,
" who killed her, and her lawyer, who
" will

“will ruin her family.” (*Tablettes Historiques des Rois de France.*)

Mary of Medicis being pregnant, it became necessary to look out for a nurse for the Dauphin. La Riviere, the First Physician, a mercenary and corrupt man, recommended one who had made him a present of a piece of tapestry, worth four hundred crowns. The King, declaring that this nurse did not please him, was for choosing another, whose milk was excellent, according to the attestations of several physicians. La Riviere said to the King, “She is not a whit the better, Sire, “for all these attestations; I will engage “to get as good, for a couple of crowns, “to any physician in Paris that I pitch “upon.” The King replied, *And why should not they take two crowns for that? you have received a piece of tapestry worth four hundred crowns.* The King would

N

not

not have the nurse recommended by La Riviere. (*Manuscrit in 4to.*)

Henry, Count de Bouchage, younger brother of the Duke of Joyeuse, who was killed at Coutras, was passing one day, at four o'clock in the morning, by the convent of the Capuchins at Paris, after having spent the night in debauchery. He thought he heard the angels singing Matins in the convent. Struck with this idea, he became Capuchin, under the name of *Friar Angel*. He afterwards threw off the frock, and took up arms against Henry IV. At length he made his peace with that Prince; but, one day, he and Henry, being together in a balcony, under which a great crowd was assembled, the King said to him, *Cousin, these folks seem very glad to see an apostate and a renegado together.* These words determined Joyeuse to re-enter into his convent, where he died. (*Henriade.*)

Henry

Henry laughed at those who came to Court, in order to display their grand apparel; *And who carried, said he, their mills and their woods upon their backs.* (Thomas, Eloge de Sully.)

This Prince often rallied the Constable Montmorency upon his ignorance; but he could not help admiring the sagacity and natural genius of that illustrious man. Henry, who had stood sponsor for the Constable's son at the baptismal font, said one day, "With my gossip who can't read, and my Chancellor who does not understand Latin, there is nothing which I would not undertake." *Dictionnaire des Hommes Illustres.*)

Henry sometimes indulged himself in punning: it was also the taste of the times. "The best cannon I ever employed," said he, "is the cannon of the Mass; it hath

“served to make a King of me.” (*Tablettes Historiques.*)

A Rector of the University of Paris, who was making a speech to the King, having wandered from the subject on which he was deputed to speak, the King asked him what faculty he belonged to; the Rector answered, that he was a physician. Upon which Henry turned to his Courtiers, and said, “My University is very sick; it hath fallen into the hands of the physicians,”

He repeated this same pleasantry with respect to a Calvinist physician, who had just embraced the Catholic religion; “My friend,” said he to Sully, “thy religion is very sick; the physicians give it over.”

A provincial, who had purchased the place of President at a high price, and borrowed

borrowed the money for that purpose, being come to pay his respects to his Majesty, that Monarch said in a whisper to a Nobleman standing near him, "Here is a
" good Judge; I dare say he will *acquit*
" *himself* well of his *charge*, and that in
" a little time." (*Prefixe.*)

A Lady of Quality, very old and withered, having come dressed in green to a ball given by that Monarch, he told her with an air of pleasantry, "That he was
" very much obliged to her for coming in
" green and yellow to do honour to his
" company." (*Prefixe.*)

This taste for pleasantry attended him even in matters where he seemed to put on the greatest seriousness. He said to the Deputies of Paris, who were for selling their surrender, and devising pretences to protract the siege, "If they mean to put
" off the capitulation till they have only

"one day's provisions, I will let them
 "dine and sup for that day; but the next
 "they must of necessity surrender. In-
 "stead of the *misericorde* * which I offer
 "them, I will leave out the *misere*, and
 "they shall have only the *corde*; for I
 "shall be obliged by my duty, being their
 "true King and Judge, to hang some
 "hundreds of them, who, through wick-
 "edness, have starved many innocent and
 "worthy persons; I owe this justice to
 "God."

It was one of the maxims of Henry IV.
 that, if war be a remedy, it was a remedy
 as dangerous as the disease.

Great men, said he at times, are always
 the last to advise a war, and the first to
 execute it.

* Mercy.

Another

Another maxim of this Prince was, that a King, to reign happily, need only do all the good that lay in his power. (*Preface.*)

His soul, frank and truly royal, was an enemy to all petty artifices: "If our enemies," he would say, "make war on us like foxes, it behoves us to make it like lions." (*Memoires de Sully.*)

This Prince had the misfortune to exercise, almost always, his military talents in civil wars; accordingly he appeared melancholy after a victory: "I cannot rejoice," said he, "to see my subjects lying dead upon the field; I am a loser at the very moment when I win."

He often repeated the following observation, which he borrowed from La Riviere, his physician; "The Kingdom of France is like a Druggist's shop, where we find equally the most wholesome remedies

“ remedies and the most subtle poisons ; it
“ is the King’s business to make use of
“ both, like an able physician, by mixing
“ them judiciously together.” (*Memoires
de Sully.*)

On being told that his too great clemency to his enemies might prove prejudicial to him, he answered, “ More flies
“ are taken with one spoonful of honey
“ than with ten tons of vinegar.”—
(*Matthieu.*)

When he was entreated to take more care of his person than he had done, and not to go so often alone or ill-attended, he answered, “ Fear ought never to find admission into a royal breast. The man who
“ dreads death will make no attempt upon me ; the man who despises life will
“ be always master of mine, though I
“ were encompassed with a host of guards.
“ I recommend myself to God when I
“ rise

“ rise and when I lye down ; I am in his
“ hands ; and, after all, the tenor of my
“ life is such, as to leave me no just cause
“ for distrust : it belongs only to tyrants
“ to live in perpetual terror.” (*Prefixe.*)

Some persons were mentioning before Henry IV. the important affairs which Philip de Valois had had upon his hands, and of his eminent courage so ill-seconded by fortune. “ He was a great Prince,” said Henry, “ but he possessed a sort of
“ cunning more worthy of a man who
“ means to deceive children, than of a
“ Sovereign, whose words and actions
“ ought only to be founded on good faith.
“ Philip de Valois had made a treaty
“ with the Emperor Lewis of Bavaria,
“ and was bound by the terms of that
“ treaty not to make war upon the em-
“ pire. He armed, however, by sea and
“ land, and gave the command of his
“ forces to his eldest son John, Duke of
“ Normandy,

“ Normandy, who was defeated at the
“ battle of L’Ecluse. The Prince having
“ laid siege to the town of Thyn, Philip
“ appeared there under the command of
“ his son ; pretending, that by assuming
“ only the condition of a private soldier,
“ though chief in the councils, he did
“ not infringe upon the engagement into
“ which he had entered, of not arming
“ against the empire, because he was not
“ at the head of his troops. *A vile subtilty,*” said Henry, “ *which dishonours*
“ *the memory of Philip de Valois.*” (Ta-
blettes Hist. des Rois de France)

Nérestan, a brave officer, raised a very fine regiment, and assured Henry IV. that he desired no other recompence than the glory of serving him. The Monarch answered, “ It is thus that good subjects
“ ought to speak ; they ought to forget
“ their services, but it is the Sovereign’s
“ business to remember them. They
“ ought

“ought to be faithful ; the Prince ought
“to be just.” (*Tablettes citées.*)

Henry loaded with caresses a celebrated merchant, who embarked in great undertakings. This merchant took it into his head to purchase a patent of Nobility ; the King took no farther notice of him ; he had the boldness to ask that Monarch the reason of the alteration. “The reason is,” answered Henry, “that I considered you as the first merchant in my kingdom, and that I look on you, at present, as the last of the Gentle-
“men.” (*Tablettes citées.*)

A man who ate as much as six, introduced himself to Henry, in hopes that that great Prince would give him where-withal to cultivate so eminent a talent. The King, who had already heard of this celebrated devourer, asked him, whether the report was true, that he could eat as
much

much as six? *Yes, Sire,* answered he. "And do you work proportionally?" added his Majesty. *Sire,* replied the eater, *I work as much as another of equal strength and age with mine.* "Ventre-saint-gris," exclaimed the King, "had I six such men as you in my kingdom, I would hang them; such knaves would soon occasion a famine." (*Vigneuil, Melanges de Literature.*)

Great eaters and great sleepers, said Henry, are incapable of any thing sublime. A soul which sleep and high-feeding buried in a mass of flesh, cannot feel any emotions that are generous and noble. If I love, added he, the pleasures of the table, it is to enliven me and make me merry. (*Prefixe.*)

A Turkish Ambassador was magnifying the forces of the Sultan his Master, and seemed astonished that a King who, like Henry,

Henry, had ascended the Throne, and established himself upon it, by his victories alone, should have so very small an army. "Where justice reigns," replied that great Monarch, "force becomes unnecessary."

Henry seemed persuaded, that none but persons destitute of qualities, want strength of mind to confess their imperfections. This Prince one day asked the Ambassador of Rodolph II. whether that Emperor kept any mistresses? *If my Master hath any, it is in secret,* answered the Ambassador. "It is true," replied Henry, "that there are men so poorly provided with great qualities, that they cannot afford to let their weaknesses be seen." (*Pierre Matthieu.*)

When he was pressed by a weight of business, and could not attend Mass every day, (on Sundays and holidays he never
O missed)

missed) he made excuses to the Prelates who came to Court, and said to them, "When I am labouring for the Public, "I think I am forsaking God for God's "fake." (*Prefixe.*)

This Prince had accustomed himself to make use of this expression, *Ventre-saint-gris*, as a kind of oath. When he was yet a child, his governors, apprehensive that he would get the custom of swearing, as so many others did, had allowed him to say *ventre-saint-gris*, which was a term of derision that they had given to the Monks, and particularly to the Franciscans, (generally calling Saint Francis, *Saint-Gris*) evidently from the colour of their dress. Brantôme, in the Life of Francis I. mentions a wretched stanza of that time, made on the oath used by that Monarch,

Monarch, and on those of his three predecessors.

*Quand la Pâque Dieu décéda, ** (Louis XI.)

Par le jour Dieu lui succéda, (Charles VIII.)

Le Diable m'emportes s'en tint près, (Louis XII.)

For de Gentilhomme vint après, (Francis I.)

* "When God's Easter went out of fashion, By God's
"Light succeeded it; The Devil carry me came next,
"and By the Faith of a Gentleman followed it."

F I N I S.

HENRY IV. OF FRANCE.

Monarch, and on those of his three pre-
decessors.

Grand in Régne Dieu bédict. (Louis XI.)

Par le Roy Dieu bédict. (Charles VIII.)

Le Dieu bédict. (Louis XII.)

Par le Dieu bédict. (Francis I.)

" " When God's light went out of France, by God's
" light proceeded in. The Devil came and
" and by his light a Christian followed it."



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